

APRIL 2025

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

APRIL 6

**WHY LUTHERAN?
BECAUSE GOD INTENDS
TO FORGIVE AND
RESTORE US.**
Luke 19:1-10

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

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

APRIL 13

**PALM SUNDAY
WHY LUTHERAN?
BECAUSE GOD WILL PAY
ANY COST TO SAVE US.**
Luke 19:29-40

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

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

APRIL 20

**EASTER SUNDAY
RESURRECTION**
Luke 24:1-12

M 7, 8, 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Lose
MUSIC Cathedral &
Sanctuary Choirs with
Brass ensemble
*All services are livestreamed at
mtolivet.org.*

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

APRIL 27

ROAD TO EMMAUS
Luke 24:13-35

M 9, 10, 11am
*Cathedral of the Pines Camp
Style Worship*

SERMON Pastor Lose
MUSIC Chancel, Cathedral &
Sanctuary Choirs

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Grangaard
MUSIC Jake Meyer, clarinet

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES: THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 2 & APRIL 9, 12NOON, MPLS
CAMPUS AND LIVESTREAMED AT MTOLIVET.ORG**

This year we are reflecting on Jesus' words to his disciples as he initiated and instituted what we call the Lord's Supper. 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.

COVER IMAGE

Anastasis Scene of Jesus at the resurrection, pulling up humankind in the form of Adam and Eve. Located in the Parekklesion of Chora Church Museum, Istanbul Turkey.

Living the Resurrection

What does the resurrection mean?

Perhaps that sounds like an odd question, or at least something you haven't thought about before. Given what feels like an unusually chaotic time in our nation and world, I've been thinking about that a lot across this season of Lent. As we approach our celebration of the resurrection on April 20, I thought I'd share three things I think the resurrection means in contrast to three things I think the resurrection does *not* mean. (If that sounds complicated, bear with me, we'll get there!)

First, the resurrection does not mean an end to suffering and pain. Before Jesus is resurrected, he dies the awful death of crucifixion. Further, church tradition shares that all of the disciples who followed him were either martyred or exiled for their faith. Resurrection doesn't erase suffering, but it promises that suffering does not have the last word.

Second, the resurrection doesn't mean the church "wins," ushering in an era of Christian power and triumphalism. (See above about the disciples!) The church has historically been at its worst when it believes Christ's victory over death conveys a mandate to impose its will on others. (Think, for example, of the Spanish Inquisition of the 15th century which promoted torturing those who would not convert or the German National Church in the 1930s that sanctioned Hitler's injustice and discrimination.) Rather, the resurrection demonstrates and validates that God chooses to redeem not through power and might but through vulnerability and suffering.

Third, the resurrection isn't something you can – or need to – prove. In all four gospels, the disciples initially do not believe the news that Jesus was raised from the dead. In fact, as Luke tells it, after the disciples hear about Jesus' resurrection, after they see Jesus for themselves, and even after they ask Jesus to eat some fish to prove he's not a ghost, they still have doubts. As Luke writes, "while in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering..." (24:41). Joy, disbelief, and wonder all at once! But if resurrection isn't something we can prove, it certainly is something we can live. And that is just what the disciples do. Whatever doubts or reservations they had, they nevertheless go on to share the good news of Jesus' resurrection, care for the poor among them, and refuse to give up, even when met with resistance.

So what does the resurrection mean? It means that our lives, even when they are challenging, uncertain, or chaotic, can still

be infused with a sense of hope, compassion, and freedom. Hope because suffering and death do not have the last word. Compassion because we realize that God meets us at our points of struggle and vulnerability and invites us to do the same for others. And freedom when we realize that because God has promised to redeem all things, we are free to love those around us and make difference where we can, not pressed to save the world precisely because in the resurrection God has promised to do just that.

Which means that the possibilities for *living* the resurrection are nearly endless. When stressed by the division or uncertainty around you, you can "double down on good," remembering that God will redeem all things and that you are therefore free to take care of those around you. You can do small acts of kindness and mercy knowing that God will work through those small actions to make a big difference in someone's life. You can come together with others in worship to be renewed in faith and confidence and reminded that you are not alone. You can trust that God still meets us at our points of brokenness and uses us to share God's love with others when they are struggling. You can join your strength and resources to those of others by volunteering, advocating for policies that seek to help the poor and vulnerable, or by giving to a charitable organization that marshals our individual resources and multiplies the good we can do together. You can pray, sharing with God your fears, hopes, concerns, dreams, and everything in between, trusting that God listens, hears, and cares. You can....

Do you see what I mean? As it turns out, the resurrection isn't something that just happened in the distant past but rather is an ongoing reality, event, and source of hope and strength that we can tap into at any time and any place. All of which leads me to say that the resurrection means God is still at work, will never give up on us or the world, and will in time redeem and restore all things. As the Apostle Paul writes, "Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in our resurrected Lord your labor is not in vain."

See you in Church!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR



DO YOU KNOW? WHAT IS AN “ALB” AND WHY DO PASTORS WEAR THEM?

Do you know why pastors wear white robes? It's not because they're special, or to assert their authority, or to set themselves apart. Rather, the white robe they wear – called an “alb,” from the Latin “albus” that means “white” – symbolizes the righteousness of Christ that every Christian receives at baptism. What is righteousness, you ask? Good question! It is to be in good standing with God, to be considered innocent, pure, and blameless. “But I'm not pure and blameless,” you may be thinking. And you're right. But Christ was and is. And in baptism, we are given the promise that every time God looks at us, God sees us and regards us as if we were Christ. In this sense, we “wear” or “borrow” Christ's righteousness as our own.

Pastors, as well as those who help serve communion, put on a white robe to symbolize the purity and righteousness that we have not earned but has been given to us as a free gift. Those leading worship wear an alb to remind every one of us in the congregation that we “wear” Christ's righteousness every day. That is the gift of baptism: being joined to Christ Jesus, being named a child of God, and receiving the promise that when God looks at us, God sees us as just as pure, blameless, and righteous as Jesus is. So, the next time you are at church and see someone in a white robe, think of yourself as also being clothed in God's love, acceptance, and forgiveness.



LIFE & GROWTH

FEB 14 - MAR 14

BAPTISMS

Emma Esther Barber

daughter of Natasha and Chris

Lucy Amelia Carpenter

daughter of Mollie and Garrett

Rory Jaeger McGrail

son of Katrina and Joseph

Parker Morley Henjum

son of Maggie and Alison

Isla Jean Siverson

daughter of Britta and Chad

Levi David Siverson

son of Britta and Chad

Barrett James Swatfager

son of Krista and Dan

Katelin Zachman

Merik James Zachman

son of Katelin and Andrew

WEDDINGS

Nicolette Peterson & Noah Olson

February 1

DEATHS

Ruth H. Chalk

Verla J. Dobervich

Gary L. Gandrud

Larissa Grundmanis

Susan J. Halvorson

Linda A. Kuhnley

Scott D. Lippert

Pamela K. Svoboda

DEVOTION

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

—John 11:25-26

I used to think that to be a faithful Christian, I needed to carry a cross in life. That is, until my wise spiritual director met me with these words, "Becca, the cross will surely come. Jesus is life. What brings you life?"

That question has forever changed me. Because the gift of Jesus' life has brought hope to situations that previously seemed hopeless.

I've found that one of the best ways to identify moments of life every day is through a prayer practice called the examen. The examen focuses on two questions at the end of each day,

"For what am I most grateful?" And, "For what am I least grateful?"

Or, "When did I give and receive the most love today? When did I give and receive the least love today?"

Or, "When did I feel most aware of God's grace in my life? When did I feel least aware of God's grace in my life?"

Or, "When did I feel most connected to myself, others, and God? When did I feel least connected?"

Each of these sets of questions identifies moments of consolation and desolation in our lives and invites us to trust the words of Psalm 23 more fully,

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

my whole life long."

As you live this season of Easter, I invite you to pray with the questions of the examen, discern Christ's life in your midst and trust that God wants goodness for you. Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Thanks be to God.

Dear God, thank you for Jesus' gift of resurrection that holds us and keeps us alive – in this life and the next. Amen. — PASTOR FREEMAN



MOUNT OLIVET TO HOST SOUTHWEST FARMERS MARKET

Saturdays, beginning May 17, 8:30am-1pm, Mpls Campus Parking Lot

We are excited to announce that we will be hosting the Southwest Farmers Market, formerly the Fulton Market. The Market will take place on Saturdays from 8:30am-1pm in the Minneapolis Campus parking lot and will run weekly through October 25, 2025. There will be a wide variety of vendors, who will offer produce, ready-to-eat foods, pantry items, arts and crafts, and more. More information, including a vendor list, can be found at neighborhoodroots.com.

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 13, 9, 10, & 11am, Mpls & West Campuses, and livestreamed at mtolivet.org

The excitement that filled Jerusalem when Jesus entered the city long ago will be felt at Mount Olivet on Palm Sunday! Throughout the morning, choirs of all ages will join together, accompanied by the triumphant sounds of brass and the voices of the congregation. Come, lift your voice, wave palm branches, and sing with joy, "Hosanna to the King!"

If you pre-ordered Easter Butter Braids, don't forget to pick up at the campus you selected during the ordering process. Orders must be picked up by 11am at both campuses.



THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST CONCERT

Wednesday, April 16, 7pm, Mpls Campus and livestreamed at mtolivet.org

This Holy Week musical event is a beloved tradition for many during the Lenten season. *The Seven Last Words of Christ* by Théodore Dubois is a sacred cantata, based on the final words spoken by Jesus on the cross. Each musical movement is enhanced with a short meditation by a pastor. This deeply expressive and dramatic work features Cathedral Choir and alumni, soloists, and an orchestral and organ accompaniment. All Cathedral Choir alumni are invited to join in the chorus of singers. The adult presence in this concert is important musically and serves as a powerful witness to our high school choir. Alumni, if you plan to sing, please meet in the Rehearsal Hall at 6pm.



LIVING LORD'S SUPPER

Thursday, April 17, 7pm, Mpls & West Campuses, and livestreamed at mtolivet.org

Step into a powerful experience of Holy Communion, commemorating the night Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. Witness a live portrayal of this sacred moment, then come forward to receive the bread and cup, renewing your commitment to walk in the way of Christ. This service is significant for young people and children, offering a vivid visual experience that brings the story to life. Join us!



GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 18

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

(Tenebrae service)

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

These deeply meaningful communion services provide a sacred time to remember and reflect on Christ's sacrifice, given for us through His crucifixion. The 7pm Tenebrae service, also known as the Service of Shadows, offers a profoundly moving experience as we listen once more to the story of Jesus' journey to the cross. This solemn service invites reflection and reverence—please note that at 7pm communion will not be served.



EASTER SUNDAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

MPLS CAMPUS: 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11AM, PASTOR LOSE

WEST CAMPUS: 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11AM, PASTOR DIXON

ALL MPLS CAMPUS SERVICES WILL BE LIVESTREAMED AT MTOLIVET.ORG

Celebrate the joy and triumph of Easter in a jubilant worship service honoring the risen Christ! With uplifting scripture, a meaningful message, stirring choral anthems, and the majestic sounds of brass, we will unite in worship, raising our voices to proclaim the victorious message: "Christ is risen indeed!" Let this be a time of renewal, hope, and rejoicing in the promise of new life in Christ.

If you ordered an Easter plant for the Chancel Garden, please pick up your plant following the 11am service until 12:30pm or on Tuesday, April 22 from 10am-12noon.

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 receives an Easter basket and groceries to make a healthy family meal.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

DONATE

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.

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 TO SIGN UP TO DONATE OR VOLUNTEER,
OR CONTACT LAURIE HANCER AT LHANCER@MTOLIVET.ORG OR 612.767.2267**



BECOME A MEMBER OF MOUNT OLIVET

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATIONS

Sunday, April 13, 12noon-1:30pm, Mpls Campus

Sunday, April 27, 12noon-1:30pm, Mpls Campus

Sunday, May 4, 12noon-1:30pm, West Campus

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Sunday, May 18, 9am-12noon, Both Campuses

New Member Orientations offer people who are joining or thinking about joining Mount Olivet an opportunity to 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-5 yrs. old. Register at mtolivet.org. Mount Olivet offers a tremendous number of worship services, fellowship groups, service opportunities, and educational events and programs. Exploring the possibility of joining Mount Olivet is as easy as contacting Katie Lose, Coordinator of Engagement & Special Events, at klose@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2287.

VOLUNTEER AT CHURCH

Do we need your help in keeping a congregation like Mount Olivet running? Of course! But even more, volunteering at Mount Olivet offers you a way to be woven more deeply into the fabric of this congregation, grow in your faith, and form lasting relationships. Let us help you match your gifts, skills, and experiences with one of the many volunteer opportunities at church.

If you are interested in learning more about the many volunteer opportunities Mount Olivet has to offer, please contact Laurie Hancer, Coordinator of Service and Volunteers, at 612.767.2267 or lhancer@mtolivet.org.

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 or 612.767.2260.

BEING GENEROUS = BETTER HEALTH

High blood pressure kills about 10 million US citizens annually. One way to lower that number is by promoting generosity. That's right! In a study conducted at the University of British Columbia, researchers discovered that making generosity a habit reduced high blood pressure as much as diet and exercise. And it's not just high blood pressure. Being generous also reduces anxiety and depression, lowers the risk of dementia, improves chronic pain, and increases relative states of happiness. Generosity is, in its own way, something of a wonder-drug. As Stephen G. Post, of the Stoneybrook University School of Medicine puts it, "If you were somehow able to package generosity into a compound, you'd be a billionaire overnight."

It's interesting to note how often the beneficial effects of generosity surprise researchers. Christians, on the other hand, should know this. From the first chapter of Genesis on, the Bible is clear that we are created to be in community. And when we are generous, we are caring for others and strengthening the communities that sustain us. So, as soon as you can, and for your own well-being, go for a walk, eat some vegetables, and be generous! You'll be amazed at the benefits!



MOUNT OLIVET GALA

Together We Can

TICKETS ARE ON SALE UNTIL APRIL 21

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.

Your ticket includes a program, food, and entertainment. A cash bar that also accepts credit cards will be available.

Casual cocktail attire is suggested. Complimentary valet parking as well as self parking available.

To purchase a ticket, visit mtolivet.org or contact Laurie Hancer at lhancer@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2267.

FUND-A-NEED

Each of our Mount Olivet affiliates has identified specific areas of need within their various programs. Our Fund-A-Needs are an amazing and easy way to learn more about the valuable work each affiliate provides through your donation. We invite you to find a cause that touches your heart and contribute whatever amount you are able. Please visit mtolivet.org/events/gala to donate to one (or all!) of the items described below. It's incredible to see what we can accomplish when we all work together!



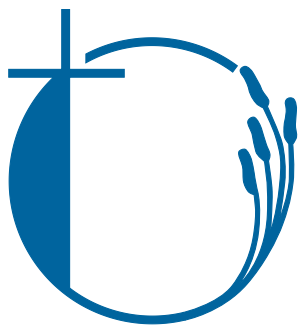
CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES CAMP

BEACHFRONT REFRESH: The waterfront of Lake Caribou is a highlight for campers and we need your help to keep these kids safe by supplying two new durable lifeguard chairs and a Lily Pad floating mat. \$4,000

NEW LODGE CHAIRS: Meals in the lodge are lively and 100 new chairs are needed for guests and staff. \$7,500

LODGE CUSHIONS: The cushions on our furniture in the lodge need replacing. \$2,500

USED PICK-UP TRUCK: Help us fund a used pickup truck. \$30,000



CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER

SUPPORT TWO RETREATS FOR AT-RISK YOUTH: In 2025, we have the opportunity to host two overnight weekend-long retreats (2-nights, 6 meals) for 20 at-risk youth from the Twin Cities metro. \$9,200

HELP SUSTAIN THE HONEYBEES: We need materials to expand our hives and provide food for the bees so that they can flourish. \$3,000

PROVIDE AN ADA PICNIC TABLE AND SWING: We need an ADA compliant picnic table and swing so that our guests with disabilities can enjoy the beauty of our grounds and eat outdoors with comfort and ease. \$3,100

PROVIDE TOOLS TO MAINTAIN THE MOCRC GROUNDS: We need loppers, hand trowels, rakes, shovels, and pitchforks so that staff and volunteers can remove buckthorn, maintain our trails and vegetable gardens, plant flowers, and keep our property looking beautiful. \$1,300



MOUNT OLIVET DAY SERVICES

PROVIDE A SAFE AND COMFORTABLE BATHING EXPERIENCE FOR SENIORS: For many of the individuals we serve at MODS, mobility challenges make bathing at home difficult and even dangerous. \$12,000

MOUNT OLIVET HOME & CAREVIEW HOME

HELP BRING THE MN STATE FAIR TO RESIDENTS: A trip to the State Fair is too exhausting for our residents, so we bring the fun to them! \$2,000

A SPECIAL DAY AT THE BALLPARK: Help us treat our residents to an unforgettable day cheering on the Twins! \$1,500

HELP US CREATE A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE: Your donation will allow us to bring in live reindeer for our residents to see, pet, and experience the wonder of these gentle animals up close—filling their hearts with holiday cheer. \$1,500

SCENIC PADDLEWHEEL BOAT RIDE: Your donation will cover the cost of tickets, transportation, and a delicious meal, creating an unforgettable day on the water. \$2,000

MOUNT OLIVET ROLLING ACRES

MOUNT OLIVET ROLLING ACRES

SPONSOR A MORA SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEAM!: Special Olympics gives our residents the chance to showcase their athletic talents, build confidence, form lasting friendships, and be part of a supportive community that celebrates their abilities. \$5,000

HELP FUND A FULL YEAR OF PASTORAL CARE FOR 10 COMMUNITY HOMES: For many residents, attending church services isn't possible, so we bring pastoral care directly to them—whether at the West Campus or in MORA community homes. \$8,000

PROVIDE SAFE FURNITURE AND FUN RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT FOR YOUTH IN CRISIS: In Minnesota, children with disabilities are being left in emergency rooms for days, weeks, or even months because there are no safe, supportive homes available for them. \$10,000

HELP PROVIDE FUN AND ENGAGING ACTIVITIES FOR MORA RESIDENTS: MORA goes beyond basic care by providing residents with enriching, fun, and accessible recreational activities that enhance their well-being. \$7,000

Building a Stronger Community Together

The Mount Olivet Development Department plays a crucial role in advancing the mission of our church and its affiliates by fostering meaningful connections with individuals, businesses, and foundations. But we can't do it alone—Mount Olivet Church Members are essential partners in expanding our outreach and strengthening our church and affiliate organizations. By getting involved, you help create opportunities, secure financial resources, and share our mission with a broader community.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT:

GIVE WITH PURPOSE

Set Up Recurring Donations: Ensure ongoing support for church and/or our affiliates by setting up a weekly or monthly contribution.

Pledge a Special Gift: Consider making a donation for a specific initiative.

Double Your Impact: Check if your employer offers donation matching!

GROW OUR COMMUNITY

Introduce New Supporters: Invite someone new to attend services, events, or informational sessions.

Host Small Gatherings: Organize a gathering to share the mission of our church and affiliates with others.

Leverage Social Media: Share affiliate updates, success stories, and giving opportunities on your platforms.

ADVOCATE AND SPREAD AWARENESS

Be an Ambassador: Share our impact in your workplace, social circles, or community groups.

Help Identify Opportunities: If you see potential donors, grants, or partnerships, bring them to our attention!

Promote our Events: Invite a friend or colleague to experience our affiliates' work firsthand.

SHOW UP AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Join Us at Events: Attend church gatherings, fundraisers, and community programs.

Volunteer Your Time: Help with special events, outreach, or even hands-on tasks like yardwork.

LET US HELP YOU GET INVOLVED!

Your support—whether through financial contributions, networking, advocacy, or active participation—helps us grow, serve, and make a lasting impact.

Contact Us: development@mtolivet.org, 612.767.2214 or Peter Youngdahl, Director of Development, pyoungdahl@mtolivet.org at 612.767.2213.

HAVE YOU INCLUDED MOUNT OLIVET CHURCH OR ONE OF ITS AFFILIATES IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN?

Please let us know! Or are you wondering about how you might go about blessing the ministry of Mount Olivet to the glory of God even beyond your lifetime, by including it in your will or trust or other possibility? Let us help you in your consideration or planning! Please contact: Brian Mortenson, Head of Vision Partners and Planned Giving, at 612.767.2259 or bmortenson@mtolivet.org.

WELCOME PETER YOUNGDAHL!

We are pleased to announce that Peter Youngdahl is the new Director of Development at Mount Olivet Church. Peter brings a wealth of experience in sales, market development, and client relations, along with a deep connection to Mount Olivet Church and its affiliate organizations.

Having served on the Boards of Mount Olivet Homes and Cathedral of the Pines Camp, Peter has been an active and dedicated member of the community. He is a regular participant in Mount Olivet events and has volunteered across all Mount Olivet affiliates. Beyond his involvement with Mount Olivet, he has also organized and led various volunteer development efforts in the broader community. Peter played a key role in launching the inaugural Minneapolis Lakers Youth Basketball League and led the committee for the Washburn Miller Open, demonstrating his passion for fostering community engagement and development.

Peter can be reached at pyoungdahl@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2213.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who support Mount Olivet through your pledges and gifts.

NEW SCHEDULED GIVERS:

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

GIVE HERE



- Visit mtolivet.org under GIVING
- Bring to church
- Contact Tricia Lerohl-Morgan, Coordinator of Financial Records, at tricial@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2255

CURRENT SCHEDULED GIVERS REMINDER:

Is your current scheduled giving matching what you planned to give for 2025? If not, please update via your *Realm* account, or contact Tricia Lerohl-Morgan for assistance at 612.767.2255 or tricial@mtolivet.org.



MINISTRY MOMENT: SUNDAY WORSHIP

Mount Olivet's traditional and dynamic (no-longer-than-40-minute!) services are characterized by exceptional music and strong preaching. These services aim to lift spirits, deepen faith, and prepare us all for another week of answering God's call to love all our neighbors in all we do and say. And it's thanks to your generosity that these worship services happen! Thank you for helping to share God's word with thousands every year—it couldn't happen without you!

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



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.

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

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

The power of this story that revolves around the prophet Elijah is that it echoes moments in our lives where we are worn out by challenges or made desperate by circumstances – illness, loss, heartbreak – and thereby orients us to look for God in unexpected places or, even more, to be open to the possibility that God often meets us just where we least expect God to be. I look forward to exploring this story with you in April! — PASTOR LOSE

LUKE 24: GOD IS AVAILABLE TO US HERE AND NOW

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

It's hard to believe that we're approaching the end of this year's *Living the Message* journey. Over the last eight months, we've reviewed a variety of stories – some well-known, some less so – that illustrate the character of God in a way that makes us think a little more deeply about the God we worship. We've learned that God doesn't wait for us to make the first move, that God wants to be in relationship with us, that God's chief desire is for us to take care of each other, and more. In our last session, we'll discover that this God we're learning about isn't just sitting in heaven but is available to us anytime!

The story we're delving into in May – often called “The Road to Emmaus” – comes from the Gospel of Luke. It's easy to forget that Luke, as well as the other Evangelists, was writing to Christians who had never seen or met Jesus. In other words, Luke is writing to Christians just like us, those who depend upon the witness of others. In this story that focuses on two disciples who meet Jesus on their journey on Easter evening from Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus, Luke promises his community that they have not missed out. Jesus still appears to his followers. Jesus still opens our hearts and minds to understand his mission and ministry. Jesus still inspires us to go out and share the good news of God's love with others. And Jesus does all of this in a way that is as simple as it is surprising. So come join us for the final *Living the Message* of the year in May as together we learn when and where Jesus is regularly available to us!

JOIN US!

REGISTER FOR ALL ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES AT
MTOLIVET.ORG/EDUCATION OR BY CONTACTING KATIE
STEVENSON AT KATIES@MTOLIVET.ORG OR 612.767.2232.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL

Wednesdays, April 30
through May 21, 10:30-
11:30am, Mpls Campus
Thursdays, May 1 through
May 22, 10:30-11:30am,
West Campus

Also available via video

Join Reverend Dr. Theresa Latini, Executive Director of Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center, and Pastor Grangaard in exploring the Apostle Paul's missionary journeys as recorded in the book of Acts. This class offers a rich exploration of Paul's travels through Greece and Turkey, bringing biblical history to life through Dr. Latini's firsthand experiences, photos, and videos from her recent pilgrimage.

We will visit key locations where Paul preached and taught, including Mars Hill in Athens, where he boldly addressed Greek philosophers; Corinth, the city that inspired two of his most well-known epistles; and Ephesus, a major center of early Christianity where Paul spent two years spreading the Gospel. In addition, we will glimpse the rise of Christian monasticism through the breathtaking Meteora Monasteries of Greece.

Through historical insights and theological reflection, we will explore how Paul engaged diverse religious traditions and cultures, courageously sharing the love of Christ. Together, we will consider the transformative power of Paul's message, its impact on the ancient world, and its relevance for our lives today. Come be inspired by the Apostle's journeys and the enduring call to follow Christ wherever he sends us!



REGISTER FOR SUMMERTIME PLAYERS!



SUMMERTIME PLAYERS!: GRADES 6-9

July 14-18, 8:30am-4:30pm, Mpls Campus

STP! 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!

Summertime Players! is one of my favorite Mount Olivet experiences. It's a week-long day camp full of fun experiences such as swimming, singing, dancing, and more! STP! is focused on musical theater, so we do a lot of singing and dancing, but we also get to hang out and have fun as a group by going bowling or swimming. This year will be my third year doing STP!, and I am so excited! I choose to come back each year because of the awesome experience I have every time. I couldn't possibly pick a favorite part about the program, but I especially love when we do our final showcase of the music we've learned all week. I was already a theater fan going into STP!, but it provides a super fun time for anyone interested, regardless of previous experience. I'm so excited for Summertime Players! this summer, and hope a lot of campers, new and old, are too!

-DILLIAN ANHUT, SOPHOMORE

TEAM STP: GRADES 10-GRADUATE

July 14-18, 8:30am-4:30pm, Mpls Campus

TEAM STP is a week-long counseling opportunity for high school students who love to sing, dance, and have FUN! You'll join in with the STP! campers by playing games, learning songs and choreography, and going on daily field trips. PLUS, you'll get to work behind the scenes helping with props and set decoration for the Friday performance. Join us and add some jazz hands to your summer!





CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF COMPASSION: THE STORY OF MOUNT OLIVET ROLLING ACRES

For over six decades, Mount Olivet Rolling Acres (MORA) has grown from humble beginnings into a cornerstone of support for Minnesotans of all ages. Starting as a small initiative for children, **MORA now serves 5,000 individuals annually**, reaching some of the state's most vulnerable and underserved populations. At the heart of MORA's mission is a commitment to innovation and care, ensuring that every person receives the highest quality of service possible.

DID YOU KNOW? MORA HAS...

- **Immense Community Reach:** Over 30 community homes throughout the Twin Cities.
- **Multiple Offices:** Locations in Chanhassen, Victoria, and Bloomington.
- **Comprehensive Services:** Active in all seven metro counties, offering training, crisis intervention, and case management.
- **A Vast Workforce:** With over 450 employees, MORA is one of the largest social service non-profits in Minnesota.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** There are countless ways for you and your family to get involved and make a difference!

MOUNT
OLIVET
ROLLING
ACRES



A REVOLUTIONARY BEGINNING: THE HISTORY OF MORA

The story of MORA began in 1954 when a group of visionary parents purchased a farm in Victoria, MN. At the time, children with intellectual and developmental disabilities were seen as “un-human” and abandoned at state hospitals and institutions, receiving abysmal care. Determined to provide their children with better opportunities, these parents created a summer camp—a groundbreaking initiative in an era when such efforts were virtually unheard of.

As the need grew, the summer camp evolved into permanent supportive housing, with camper cabins transforming into specialized homes for 10–15 children.

To achieve their ambitious goals, the parents turned to Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, which embraced their mission wholeheartedly. In 1965, Mount Olivet Rolling Acres, or MORA as many call it, was formed as an independent nonprofit.

Pastor Reuben K. Youngdahl declared: “We’re going to strive for excellence because we have profound convictions about the inherent dignity and worth of every human being.”



COMMUNITY SUPPORT SPARKS GROWTH

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church rallied around the cause, organizing fundraising events like the Midwest premiere of Hello, Dolly! attended by over 1,000 supporters at the Mann Southtown Theater. This single event raised \$300,000, enabling the construction of three cottages to house 20 children each.

By the 1990s, MORA shifted its vision toward creating smaller, community-based homes for residents, aligning with emerging research. Church members once again rose to the challenge, funding the “Home with Heart” campaign, which resulted in 17 new group homes—many of which remain in operation today.



MORA TODAY: A LEGACY OF CARING

MORA’s services now extend far beyond housing. The organization offers crisis intervention, case management, and day programming to support people living with disabilities. Some highlights include:

- **32 Community Homes:** Safe, comfortable residences with 24-hour staff support.
- **Specialized Teams:** Nursing and recreation professionals dedicated to holistic care.
- **Vacation Opportunities:** A property in McGregor, MN, available for client getaways.
- **Future Goals:** Building new homes for children in crisis. This is at a crisis level across the country and in Minnesota, MORA is currently actively searching for land in the right location to build the ideal site.

MORA’s guiding value—“We believe in the infinite worth of people”—continues to shape its mission.

A PARTNERSHIP ROOTED IN FAITH AND COMPASSION

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church’s support has been instrumental in MORA’s success. As Pastor Lose reflects, **“There is no clearer biblical mandate than to care for the vulnerable. The church’s commitment to MORA’s vision and mission remains as strong as ever. We can’t wait to see what’s next for this remarkable organization!”**

As MORA looks ahead to the next 60 years, the organization remains dedicated to its founding mission: enriching lives, breaking barriers, and showing every individual that they are valued and loved.

Together, we can continue answering the call to care for our most vulnerable neighbors! Join us in shaping the future of MORA and the lives it touches! Support vital projects at moracares.org/get-involved.

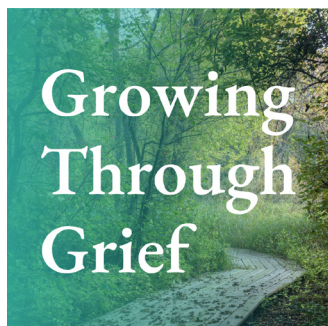
FEATURED EVENTS

GROWING THROUGH GRIEF

Saturday, April 5, 9am-4pm,
Conference & Retreat Center,
\$50-100

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.



SPRING COMMUNION & LUNCHEON

Saturday, May 3, 11am-1pm,
Mpls Campus

Please join us for a worship service and Holy Communion, followed by a delicious lunch in Fellowship Hall. This service is designed for members and family who are often unable to come to church. Rides will be provided for those in need of transportation. For

more information and to register, please contact Nancy Nelson at nnelson@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2288. There is no cost to attend.



MENTAL HEALTH CONNECT PRESENTS: STORIES OF HOPE

Thursday, May 8, 8-9am, Mpls Campus, \$25

Join us for the uplifting Stories of Hope Breakfast, a heartwarming event hosted by Mental Health Connect. This year, our fundraiser shines a spotlight on youth mental health, showcasing real stories from young individuals and families facing mental

health struggles. Get ready to be touched by these stories, enjoy delightful music, savor a delicious breakfast, and mingle with fellow community members. Mental Health Connect is dedicated to providing essential support and resources for mental health concerns, as well as combating the stigma surrounding mental health conversations – especially within faith communities. Your contributions at this event will help sustain our impactful work all year round. Let's come together to spread hope and support each other! Please register online at mtolivet.org.



TUTTLE'S NIGHT!

Thursday, May 8, 5:30-8pm,
Tuttle's Eat Bowl Play

Meet at Tuttle's in Hopkins for dinner and live music! This will be the perfect chance to reconnect! We'll have lots of time for catching up and rocking out to music with a band created just for this occasion! Its All Star Mount Olivet members are: Peter

Borne, Joel Chechik, Tom Hammersten, Big Jim Myers, and Nate Hatzung! Suffice it to say, it'll be fun! Cost: Food and drinks off the menu. Please register by May 1 at mtolivet.org.





UPCOMING AT MOUNT OLIVET

APRIL 2025

MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION AT MTOLIVET.ORG

YOUNG IN HEART & FRIENDS

Tuesday, April 8, 12noon-1:30pm, Mpls Campus, \$10

Young in Heart and Friends invites you to join us for lunch, fellowship and a performance by *Danger Committee*. This trio of jugglers will keep you on the edge of your seat. Register by April 4, at mtolivet.org.

THE FIRST YEARS WITHOUT THEM

Tuesdays, April 15 through June 3, 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.

FRIENDS FOREVER LUTHERAN PASSEOVER DINNER

Thursday, April 17, 5:30-8:30pm, West Campus, \$20

Join us for a Lutheran Passover Dinner and stay for the Living Lord's Supper service! Please register online at mtolivet.org by April 10.

MARRIAGE PREP WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 19, 9:30am-3:30pm, Mpls Campus, \$150 plus \$35 scoring fee for the Prepare Inventory

As part of planning for your life together, we invite you to participate in a very important, practical and relevant marriage preparation workshop.

FLYING SOLO: MIA'S ART IN BLOOM

Thursday, April 24, 7-9pm, Minneapolis Institute of Arts

There will be a guided tour of the annual celebration of the arts and flowers. After the tour, we will grab a bite to eat at a nearby restaurant.

ART CLASS: PAINT LIKE GEORGIA O'KEEFFE

Monday, April 28, 6-8pm, Mpls campus, \$40

You will create an acrylic painting in the style of Georgia O'Keeffe while learning a bit of history about her and her painting style.

MAY 2025

FLYING SOLO: SERVE AT SPRING COMMUNION & LUNCHEON

Saturday, May 3, 10-11am or 11am-2pm, Mpls Campus

Help serve at the Spring Communion Luncheon! You can set tables or serve the meal and clean up. Sign up to volunteer at mtolivet.org.

FIKA MUSIC SERIES: A FAMILY CONCERT: CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, May 4, 12:15-1pm, Mpls Campus

The story of various animals told through narrator and chamber ensemble.

CAREER & CALLING END OF THE YEAR NETWORKING

Tuesday, May 6, 5-7pm, LTD Brewing in Hopkins

Come for a fun end of the year networking opportunity! Please register at mtolivet.org so we can reserve tables!

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH AT THE CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER

Sunday, May 11, 9am Worship, Brunch at 10am or 12noon, Conference & Retreat Center, Cost is \$37, \$22 (4-13yrs), Free (3-0)

Celebrate Mom with delicious food, beautiful views, and warm hospitality with Pastor Kalland and Rev. Theresa Latini leading worship.

MOCW CIRCLE CELEBRATION

Wednesday, May 14, 5-7:30pm, Edina Country Club

MOCW Circle Members, please join us as we celebrate YOU! Appetizers and a cash bar available with a short program at 6pm.

FLYING SOLO: SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Sunday, May 18, 2-4pm, Ordway Concert Hall, \$15

Join Flying Solo as we enjoy an evening of extraordinary music with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra - performing Coleman's Sandbox Premiere with William Eddins at the beautiful Ordway Theatre in St. Paul. 34 musicians will bring the concert hall to life. Please register by April 17 at mtolivet.org.



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Easter Sunday

APRIL 20

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

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

AND LIVESTREAMED AT [MTOLIVET.ORG](https://mtolivet.org)