

AUGUST 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**

10am

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

9, 10am

**HOLY COMMUNION**  
8:30am only (except 8/17)

**NURSERY (NOW FOR  
AGES 6 WEEKS TO  
AGE 6!)**

9, 10am

## AUGUST 3

**THE ACTS OF THE  
APOSTLES:  
THE MISSION TO THE  
GENTILES**

*Acts 11:1-18*

**M** 9 & 10am  
**SERMON** Pastor Lose  
**MUSIC** Brian Haase, bass

**W** 9 & 10am  
**SERMON** Pastor Olson Popp  
**MUSIC** Amanda Jenkins,  
soprano

## AUGUST 10

**THE ACTS OF THE  
APOSTLES:  
LYDIA'S OPEN HEART**

*Acts 16:11-15*

**M** 9 & 10am  
**SERMON** Pastor Kalland  
**MUSIC** Julie Johnson, flute

**W** 9 & 10am  
**SERMON** Pastor Grangaard  
**MUSIC** Claire Loudon, violin

## AUGUST 17

**THE ACTS OF THE  
APOSTLES:  
PAUL IN ATHENS  
COMMUNION SUNDAY**

*Acts 17:16-34*

**M** 9 & 10am  
**SERMON** Pastor Freeman  
**MUSIC** Claire Loudon, violin

**W** 9 & 10am  
**SERMON** Pastor Cieslik  
**MUSIC** Emily Gerard, harp

## AUGUST 24

**THE ACTS OF THE  
APOSTLES:  
PAUL IS ARRESTED**

*Acts 23:10-11, 23-31*

**M** 9 & 10am  
**SERMON** Pastor Olson Popp  
**MUSIC** Matthew Valverde,  
tenor

**W** 9 & 10am  
**SERMON** Pastor Dixon  
**MUSIC** Brian Haase, bass

## AUGUST 31

**THE ACTS OF THE  
APOSTLES:  
PAUL PREACHES IN  
ROME**

*Acts 28:23-31*

**M** 9 & 10am  
**SERMON** Pastor Cieslik  
**MUSIC** Dana Donnay, oboe

**W** 9 & 10am  
**SERMON** Pastor Freeman  
**MUSIC** Julie Johnson, flute

### REMINDER!

Regular Worship Hours begin on Rally Sunday, September 7. Worship services at both campuses will be offered at 9, 10, & 11am.

### PRAYER LINE

We all know the importance of and power of prayer. If you or someone you love is in need of prayer, please call our prayer line at 612.767.2300.

### COVER IMAGE

Campers at Cathedral of the Pines Camp

# Called for Good!

Do you feel called?

Don't rush to answer this question. And, while you're thinking, I'll share why I'm asking. Martin Luther's sense of vocation – the belief that God calls each one of us to help make the world better – has always been incredibly important to me. And, to be clear, Luther believed this call (“vocation” comes from the Latin word *vocare*, meaning “to call”) comes to us at every stage and place of our lives – in our jobs, in our relationships, in our volunteering, in our roles as citizens and neighbors, and more. Wherever we are, God can work through us to make the world better, more trustworthy, more kind. And not only *can* God work through us, but God *wants* to, *intends* to, *hopes* to. Hence, God *calls* us. This sense of calling can lend a sense of importance and meaning, even holiness, to all of our tasks, roles, and responsibilities. I've always thought that's pretty cool!

Little wonder, then, that in 2008, while I was a professor at Luther Seminary, I was thrilled to lead a Lilly Endowment-funded, nation-wide study of vocation that involved five different seminaries from five different Christian traditions. Early research was promising, as graduates from all five seminaries reported that “vocation” was a central theological category in their preaching and teaching. But then things got confusing. When we polled the congregation members, we learned that very few of them actually felt called... even though their pastors reported emphasizing vocation. And then things got not just confusing but downright depressing, as through individual interviews we realized that not only did most people not feel called, they often found little meaning in their day-to-day work and lives and struggled to see God as present and active outside their congregational life.

These interviews reminded me of a study where researchers set up shop in a restaurant right beside the New York Metropolitan Museum. This particular restaurant, like many restaurants you and I have dined at, had artwork from local artists hanging on the walls. For two weeks, researchers catalogued how much time the patrons of the restaurant – many of whom had spent the morning at the Met – looked at the paintings on the wall. Then the researchers borrowed some of the priceless paintings from the Met and hung them on the restaurant walls and for two more weeks tracked how often diners look at the art. And... there was no difference. Though just at a museum to see beautiful paintings, the diners did not look at

the priceless artwork immediately in front of them. The researchers concluded that we haven't trained people to expect to see beautiful art anywhere other than in a museum. After our interviews related to vocation, I wondered if something similar had happened at church. Had we trained people only to see and experience God when surrounded by stained glass windows and organ music?

All of this is why I asked: do you feel called? Do you believe God is at work through your roles as parent, sibling, child and friend, employer or employee, volunteer, citizen or community member to make the world more trustworthy? Can you see and sense God active in your life and activities, working through you for the good of your neighbors and community? If you do, wonderful! I hope that sense grows. If you do not, do not feel bad; that means we pastors have not done our job well enough! And if this question and thought is new to you, then I hope we can help you sense God at work in and through you.

This fall we are beginning a focused effort to lift up our multiple vocations – the various roles and responsibilities we have – as arenas in which to sense God actively working through us to care for those around us. And we want to focus on Mount Olivet's call – you guessed it! – to strengthen your own sense of call. Towards this end, and as our central Stewardship theme this year, we will highlight how Mount Olivet helps you sense God's presence in your life, not just on Sundays, but every day of the week. Because, at the end of the day, we all – as individuals and as a congregation – are called for good. Always.

So... do you feel called? Answer that question now, and let your answer shape what you look forward to this fall as we invite you to grow in your faith, grow in your sense of God's presence in your life, and grow in your commitment to this place we call home, a place that has been sharing and responding to God's call for more than a century.

See you in Church!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR



## THANKSGIVING AND GENEROSITY: A POWERFUL COMBO!

In 1636, Lutheran Pastor Martin Rinckart wrote the words to one of my favorite hymns, *Now Thank We All Our God*. He wrote this hymn of gratitude during the plague and while officiating at up to 50 funerals a day, including one for his wife, and in a year when he performed more than 4,000 funerals. I've always been stunned at how he could offer that much pastoral support, let alone give thanks while doing so. Until, that is, I read a recent article about how thanksgiving and generosity can reduce stress, improve mood, boost self-esteem, and even strengthen the immune system. When we meet unexpected obstacles or major challenges, many of us instinctively try to take cover or, if we can't avoid them, complain about the challenges in front of us. Pastor Rinckart went another direction. He gave thanks, not for the obstacle itself, but rather for the opportunity to serve. Ultimately, Pastor Rinckart's act of thanksgiving enabled him, strengthened him, and equipped him to give himself faithfully and generously to those who so needed him during the most trying of circumstances.

So what is challenging for you just now? What seems unusually unfair or difficult? While I won't ask you to give thanks for whatever it is that you are contending with, I will ask you to give thanks for the opportunity to serve and for the countless other blessings in your life. Then, I'll ask you to take it one step further and be generous to another person. In fact, I'll ask you to consciously do one generous act each day throughout this month: help someone who doesn't expect it, pick up the coffee or lunch tab for a colleague, visit someone you suspect is lonely, make a donation to your favorite charity, write a thank-you note to someone for a kindness they offered you, and so forth. Pay attention to how these acts of thanksgiving and generosity affect the people who receive them, but also pay attention to how they affect you. You might be surprised by the powerful combination of thanksgiving and generosity!

DAVID J. LOSE, *Senior Pastor*

## DID YOU KNOW... WHAT "BAPTISMAL FONT" MEANS?

There have been a lot of baptisms at the church as of late. Did you know that the word "font" – as in "baptismal font" – comes from a Latin word that can mean waters, spring, or source (as in the source of a river). Those multiple and related meanings are important as we bring children to the font, immersing them in the waters of baptism that hold the promise that God will cover them in God's love forever. Also in Latin the word "baptism" comes from another Latin word that means "to cover."

While most will not remember the promises spoken to them at their baptism, those promises remain the source of our confidence and trust in God. After all, we baptize infants to remind each other that God doesn't wait for us to prove ourselves worthy of God's love. God doesn't stand by until we are old enough to make a decision. God doesn't even tarry long enough for us to understand all that is happening. Rather, and just like every loving parent, God scoops us up in baptism, showers us with forgiveness, covers us in love, and promises to hold onto us forever.

So the next time you are at worship and there is a baptism, think about God's promises to you, promises that were made when you were just a baby and honored throughout your life.

## STAINED-GLASS WINDOW UPDATE

The next time you're at the Minneapolis Campus, look up at the stained-glass windows running down both sides of the sanctuary. By August, the restoration is expected to be done. They are simply stunning, with brilliant colors that help tell the stories of major figures throughout the Bible. As you may remember, this was an unexpected and emergency expense as the windows were soon reaching a point where they would not be able to be repaired.

Thanks to all those who have contributed. We are nearing our goal of covering the \$300,000 unbudgeted expense of restoring the beautiful stained-glass windows. At the beginning of summer, we received a \$100,000 gift to serve as a 1:1 match. More recently, another family offered an additional \$50,000 1:1 match, which means that simply by reaching these matching goals, we will hit our target.

So far, and including these gifts, we are at \$250,000. Can you help us close out our goal by the end of the month? Thank you! You – and generations to come – will enjoy these beautiful windows and the stories of faith and courage they tell!





## LIFE & GROWTH

**JUN 15 - JUL 15**

### BAPTISMS

**Sutton Florence Bavender**

*daughter of Kelsey and Kyle*

**Gemma Sarah Dahmes**

*daughter of Kimberly and David*

**Henry Gus Drawbert**

*son of Laura and Hans*

**James Thomas Foote**

*son of Laura and Thomas*

**Rory Daniel Geistfeld**

*son of Sarah and Joe*

**Sienna Rose Gilmer**

*daughter of Mary and Mark*

**Olin Russell James**

*son of Karen*

**Leah Kay Kramin**

*daughter of Britta and Eric*

**Keanu Mikael Larson**

*son of Sabina and Garrett*

**Callum Christopher Lynch**

*son of Lindsay and Charles*

**Sutton Charlotte Lynch**

*daughter of Lindsay and Charles*

**Quinn Olivia Pahl**

*daughter of Nicole and Jack*

**Huxley Juelson Roers**

*son of Amanda and Kent*

**Francesca Webb**

*daughter of Natalie and Cecil*

**Miles Webb**

*son of Natalie and Cecil*

**Kennedy Kelli Wynia**

*daughter of Lauren and Mitchell*

### WEDDINGS

**Brittany Psychogios-Smith &**

**Nicholas Lunneborg, June 28**

**Jordan Buchholtz & David**

**Hedding, July 5**

**Alyssa Lund & Andrew Wray,**

**July 11**

### DEATHS

**Charyl L. Anderson**

**Judith A. Crawford**

**Donald B. Ellwood**

**Walter "Clint" Jurgens**

**JoAnn D. Meloy**

**Clark "Peter" Messman**

## DEVOTION

Recently, on one of the podcasts I listen to, the host said, "I've had many people on this show because they're such harsh critics of me, and I find that they find it very hard to maintain the criticism when you're in an extended social dynamic."

I think that insight is a holy truth: proximity breeds empathy. When we see others not as enemies but as fellow image-bearers of God, our hearts begin to soften. Being God's offspring means we are peacemakers, bridge-builders, and listeners in a world that tries to drown the other with our shouting.

Later this month we will hear a fun story from the book of Acts where Paul finds himself trying to preach in the cosmopolitan and pluralistic city of Athens. He doesn't try to out-shout his hearers. But instead appeals to something we all have in common: we are all God's children.

This promise grounds us in a divine identity that transcends the divisions of our world. As God's children, we are called to reflect God's self-giving heart—especially in times of deep polarization.

— PASTOR CIESLIK



## SANCTUARY CHOIRS AT MPLS & WEST OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS!

Do you love to sing but feel a little nervous about joining the Sanctuary Choir? Worry no more! Whether you're a seasoned singer or simply enjoy making music, you'll find a welcoming place to grow musically, serve as a valued part of worship, and connect with other music lovers. Don't worry if you need to miss a rehearsal or Sunday now and then — life gets busy! No need to worry about your musical skill level either. The choirs include singers with a diverse range of abilities. Our directors are passionate and masterful teachers who love guiding others to grow and learn in a field they truly love. Singing together deepens our faith, strengthens our spirits, and builds lasting friendships. Join us—and discover the joy of music in a community of faith. We know our faith because we sing it!

If you are interested in joining at either campus, please fill out our online interest form at [mtolivet.org/sanctuary-choir-interest](https://mtolivet.org/sanctuary-choir-interest) or contact Dr. Beverly Claffin at [beverlyc@mtolivet.org](mailto:beverlyc@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2263 with questions.

*Our first rehearsal is Thursday, August 28, 7-8:30pm! We would love to see you there!*



# COME LEARN, WONDER, AND GROW

## ADULT EDUCATION 2025–2026

At Mount Olivet, we believe learning is lifelong—and faith is richer when explored together. This year's Adult Education offerings invite you into stories that shape us, commandments that guide us, and questions that challenge us. Whether you're new to Bible study or a lifelong learner, there's something here for you.



**OUR MONTHLY EVENING SERIES, “LIVING THE MESSAGE – STORIES THAT SHAPE US”** brings fresh insight to familiar (and surprising!) stories—from Esther and Job to Lazarus and Doubting Thomas. Each session is taught by a different pastor and explores how these ancient stories still shape our modern lives. Taught the first Tuesday evening of the month, Oct-May, and via videos.

**IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, DIVE INTO “THE TEN COMMANDMENTS”**—not as dusty rules, but as a vibrant call to live faithfully with God and neighbor. Taught on Wednesday/Thursday mornings at both campuses and via videos, this four-week series unpacks how these timeless words offer guidance, freedom, and grace.

**IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY OF THE NEW YEAR, DON'T MISS “FAITH & POLITICS (NO, WE'RE NOT GOING TO TELL YOU HOW TO VOTE)”**—a brave and thoughtful exploration of how our faith engages with public life (no party lines here, just deeper reflection). Taught Wednesday/Thursday mornings at both campuses and via videos.

**FINALLY, IN APRIL AND MAY, DISCOVER JESUS' IDENTITY THROUGH THE “I AM” STATEMENTS**—a four-week study on the bold and beautiful declarations by and about Christ in John's Gospel. Taught Wednesday/Thursday mornings at both campuses and via videos.

More information in upcoming Messengers and online at [mtolivet.org/education](http://mtolivet.org/education). Come for the learning and let's grow in faith—together.

### JOIN US!

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.

## MOUNT OLIVET BOOK DISCUSSIONS: EVENING AND DAYTIME OPTIONS

Come and enjoy a lively discussion of a new book every month. New members are always welcome! Join in for one discussion – or all!

### DAYTIME DISCUSSIONS

10-11:30am the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Mpls Campus Library

### EVENING DISCUSSIONS

7-8:30pm the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Mpls Campus Library

### UPCOMING BOOKS

#### AUGUST 12/13:

*The Soul of an Octopus*

by Sy Montgomery

#### SEPTEMBER 9/10: *Little*

*Women* by Louisa May Alcott

#### OCTOBER 14/8: *March*

by Geraldine Brooks

#### NOVEMBER 11/12: *Hello*

*Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano

#### DECEMBER 9/10: *Table for*

*Two* by Amos Towles

Please be sure to register to receive reminder emails and more. You can register online 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.



# Called for GOOD

This year's Stewardship theme, Called for Good, is rooted in the powerful reminder that God is working through each of us—in every role we fill as friends and neighbors, parents and children, students, coworkers, volunteers, and more. Mount Olivet is here to support you in all your callings by offering meaningful worship, lifelong learning, opportunities for service, and a strong, caring community.

As we enter our Stewardship season this September, I invite you to:

- **Come to Sunday worship** to hear more about God's call for each of us—for ALL of us—and how these callings make a difference both in our lives and for those around us.
- **Make your commitment to Mount Olivet for 2026** through your pledge and/or setting up scheduled gifts—your support makes a real difference in helping us live out our mission to be a church called for good.
- **Share a delicious meal with your fellow members** as together we give thanks for all our blessings. These joyful gatherings offer a chance to see familiar faces, watch a fun year-in-review video, and celebrate all that God has done through Mount Olivet this past year—and dream about what God has planned for our new year.

Together, we are called for good. I'm grateful to walk this journey with you. Thank you for being a part of Mount Olivet. Even more, thank God for you!

With gratitude,

DAVID J. LOSE, *Senior Pastor*

## STEWARDSHIP MEALS

### TRADITIONAL MEALS

\*Wednesday, September 10, 6-7pm, Mpls Campus

Friday, September 12, 12noon-1pm, Mpls Campus

Monday, September 15, 6-7pm, Mpls Campus

\*Wednesday, September 17, 6-7pm, West Campus

Thursday, September 18, 6-7pm, Mpls Campus

\*Sunday, September 21, 12noon-1pm, West Campus

Thursday, September 25, 6-7pm, Mpls Campus

*\*Nursery provided for six-weeks through age six*

### DRIVE-THROUGH MEALS

*Please note the new start time of 5pm.*

Monday, September 8, 5-6pm, Mpls Campus

Monday, September 22, 5-6pm, West Campus

Tuesday, September 23, 5-6pm, Mpls Campus

REGISTER HERE



### DONATIONS AT MEALS

Personal care items are always in need, so we will again collect toothpaste and toothbrushes at the Stewardship meals which will then be distributed to our community partners: Community Emergency Services, Love INC, VEAP, and Simpson Housing.

Donations of handled paper grocery bags will also be collected for the ongoing Thursday night Community Meals. Thank you!

Questions? Check out the new FAQ page at [mtolivet.org/givingfaq](https://mtolivet.org/givingfaq) or contact Katie Stevenson, Director of Stewardship, at [katies@mtolivet.org](mailto:katies@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2232



# THANK YOU FOR A GREAT SUMMER

We've had another wonderful summer at Mount Olivet Day Camps! There are so many highlights to share as our fourth camping season comes to a close.

We welcomed a record number of Mount Olivet Preschool graduates into day camp programs. It was sweet to see the hugs and high-fives in the hallways as teachers and former students crossed paths. We saw friendships pick up where they left off and happy smiles when a camper recognized a classmate. We appreciate continuing to care for these children in a new way!

Every year, our Day Camp Staff team is outstanding - and this year was no exception! They showed up to camp each day with an upbeat attitude, ready to help out where needed, and connect with campers and each other. During multiple camping weeks, the staff took time to perform with and for the kids - accompanying the God's Kids Sing! performance, and surprising campers with impressive boomwhacker concerts. Their excitement for day camps was contagious!

Middle School Mini-Camps were a huge success! Sixth, seventh, and eighth graders jumped right into all sorts of activities, music, field trips, service projects, and fun. We value the collaboration with the Youth Staff on these camps to extend the day camp experience into middle school.

We're grateful to Kristin Olson for coordinating our Day Camps with care and expertise! With her leadership, we've created such a special summer community. Thanks to everyone involved with the Day Camps for a safe and successful summer 2025!

— KATY MICHALETZ, Director of Children & Family Ministry







# SUMMER AT CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES CAMP

KRISTI YOUNGDAHL, *Director of Cathedral of the Pines Camp*

Cathedral of the Pines Camp is a magical place. It is the perfect spot to spend time in the summer—and the summer of 2025 was awesome!

COP is blessed with the greatest volunteers of all time! Let's start with the cooks: each session we have 8-9 volunteer adults who come to camp and prepare delicious meals three times a day. Fan favorites are grilled cheese with tomato soup, chicken patties, egg McMuffins, and tacos—and the dessert fave would definitely be brownie delight! Then we have committed health professionals who tend to scrapes and cuts, twisted ankles and upset tummies. They take care of the campers with tender, loving care! Thank you!

We are so lucky to have an abundance of our Hi-Leaguers who want to volunteer at COP. There were 100 workstaff kids who helped with the dishes, mowed the grass, cleaned the flushie and shower buildings and did other chores as asked...all with a smile on their face and a skip in their step! 250 counselors hung out with their campers 24/7, enthusiastically participating in games,

softball, meals, and chapel. They encouraged their campers to participate in evening devotions by asking questions, sharing faith stories, and praying together. Mount Olivet is blessed to have these Hi-Leaguers already passing on the faith-building lessons learned at COP to an even younger generation.

The 2025 camp staff was phenomenal! They brought the energy every day of the summer! This staff had particularly good singing voices and they used this skill to their advantage by singing at meals, cheering on the ballfield, and singing special music in chapel. Their kindness and energy created an exceptional environment where campers, workstaff, and counselors could flourish! Thank you, COP Staff!

And, of course, there would not be a camp without our wonderful campers! Thank you for choosing to spend a week with us at Cathedral of the Pines Camp. We enjoyed every moment of the summer of 2025. We are already looking forward to next summer! Bring on the summer of 2026!!



# CELEBRATING SUMMER SUNDAYS & MINNEAPOLIS CRISIS NURSERY

In 1990 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, our neighbor in South Minneapolis, approached the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to offer a Sunday worship service and picnic. The next year, this service expanded into three services, and by the third year, 10-15 neighborhood churches joined the fun, each one leading a Sunday worship service beginning on Memorial Day Weekend and ending on Labor Day Weekend. These services are known as **Celebrating Summer Sundays** and have become a beacon of hope and outreach for the Minneapolis community.

Mount Olivet led worship on June 1 this year. The Cathedral Choir showed up with close to 100 high school students helping to lead the service. It was remarkable!

The Minneapolis Crisis Nursery receives the loose-change offerings gathered throughout the summer. In addition to monetary donations, the Minneapolis Crisis Nursery thrives through the volunteer efforts of local churches and neighbors.

**Starting this fall**, Mount Olivet is partnering with the Minneapolis Crisis Nursery to provide meals for the little ones facing food insecurity through the Nursery's **Cook for Kids** volunteer opportunity. Minneapolis Crisis Nursery provides the recipe, food, and snack. All you need to do is arrive at the scheduled time and cook!

**Time commitment:** 2-2.5 hours (which includes prep and clean-up)

**Age requirement:** 12 years of age or older. Volunteers who are 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult age 21 or older.

**Please join us for our first two meals:**

Tuesday, August 12, 11am-1pm

Tuesday August 26, 4-6pm

To sign up or learn more about this opportunity, please contact Laurie Hancer at [lhancer@mtolivet.org](mailto:lhancer@mtolivet.org), or Pastor Freeman at [rffreeman@mtolivet.org](mailto:rffreeman@mtolivet.org).

## LOVE INC

Mount Olivet commits to loving God by loving our neighbor in so many ways. One of them is through our involvement with Love INC (Love in the Name of Christ). Love INC is a worldwide movement dedicated to providing necessities and hope for neighbors in need. Mount Olivet is just one of many churches in Eastern and Western Carver County who link arms to bridge gaps of daily living essentials in our community. We would love your help!

### DONATE ITEMS

**Weekly:** Mount Olivet's ongoing, weekly "gap" ministry is to provide Personal Care Kits for folks experiencing hygiene insecurity. Included in the kits are: soap, toilet paper & tissues, deodorant, toothbrushes, and toothpaste, to name a few. Donations can be dropped off at church. Please label donations, "Personal Care Items".

**Seasonally:** You can participate during the month of November, as we collect Christmas gift items for the **Christmas For All Store** hosted at the West Campus on the first Saturday in December. In addition, for the month preceding Easter, we collect Easter basket items and monetary donations to provide Easter dinner for our neighbors at both campuses for **Easter for All**.

### DONATE TIME

**Weekly:** Meet neighbors face-to-face by delivering assembled Personal Care Kits.

**Seasonally:** Volunteer for the **Christmas for All** and **Easter for All** events.



# MOUNT OLIVET SCHOOL OF MUSIC & THE ARTS

*music and art made in community*

MOSOMA or the Mount Olivet School of Music & the Arts is now in its 22nd year! MOSOMA continues to thrive with excellence and energy! With over 30 professional teachers and 300 students, the school continues to champion the importance of music and art. MOSOMA represents a warm, welcoming environment where people come first, learning feels safe and supportive, and exceptional teachers inspire every step of the way.



## PRIVATE LESSONS

Private music lessons offer an invaluable opportunity for musical and personal growth. With one-on-one time, teachers can tailor lessons to each student's unique needs, interests, and learning pace. Learning music also gives your brain a serious workout. It improves memory, focus, and problem-solving skills, it also helps with tasks such as math and language. But it doesn't stop there—music feeds the soul. In private lessons, students have the opportunity to express themselves, work through their emotions, and experience the joy of creating something meaningful. MOSOMA provides a safe and encouraging space where students can grow in confidence, find their voice, and connect with something bigger than themselves. For more information, check out our MOSOMA teachers online and then fill out the private lesson interest form at [mtolivet.org/mosoma](https://mtolivet.org/mosoma).

## ART CLASSES

MOSOMA continues to offer a variety of Art Classes for all ages and interests. These group classes encompass a variety of mediums, including watercolor, acrylic, chalk, ink, and more! Here are the classes we have coming up in 2025! To register or get more information about these Art Classes, visit [mtolivet.org/events](https://mtolivet.org/events).

### WHAT IS GOUACHE? (WATERCOLOR)

Monday, August 11, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus, \$45

### PAINT LIKE BERTHE MORISOT

Monday, September 22, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus, \$40

### MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL PAINT NIGHT

Tuesday, October 28, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus, \$40

### WATERCOLOR AND MIXED MEDIA ART

Tuesday, November 11, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus, \$40

### CHALK PASTEL DRAWING

Monday, December 8, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus, \$40



# SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



We invite children in preschool through grade 5 to join us for Sunday School this fall! Sunday School at Mount Olivet is a combined children's choir and faith formation experience taught by professional educators and experienced volunteers. Weekly lessons include Bible Stories, music activities, friendship building, and arts and crafts.

As children and families participate in faith formation through Sunday School, we expect they will:

- Discover the story of God's love for them and all of God's people.
- Learn and practice lifelong habits of worship, singing, and prayer that will nurture and strengthen their faith.
- Begin to cultivate a faith of action that moves them to do for others.
- Form foundational relationships that connect them to one another and to the congregation.

Sunday School is offered at the Minneapolis and West Campuses during the 9 and 10am worship services from Rally Sunday, September 7, 2025, through May 10, 2026. Registration is online along with a more detailed schedule for the program year.

Please contact Amy Porthan, Faith Formation Coordinator, at [amyp@mtolivet.org](mailto:amyp@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2285 with any questions.

REGISTER HERE



## INTRODUCING MO PLAY DAYS!

Make the most of school release days with MO Play Days—a new program designed just for K–5 kids! Each day will feature a field trip, guest experience, or themed on-campus fun. We'll do arts & crafts, play games, and engage in activities with Children & Family Ministry staff. Check your school calendars, save the dates and look out for registration on the Mount Olivet website!

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**  
Minneapolis Campus

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31**  
West Campus

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4**  
Minneapolis Campus

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 1**  
West Campus



# REGISTER FOR THE FALL 2025!

## CATHEDRAL CHOIR

Love to sing? Want to make new friends? Want to use your voice to inspire others in worship and be part of something bigger on Sunday mornings? Cathedral Choir is for YOU!



Our **high schoolers** come together every week to create something powerful. Cathedral Choir isn't just about singing—it's about energy, purpose, faith, and community.

We rehearse **Wednesday nights at 7pm**, and sing and worship together on **Sunday mornings at the 9 & 10am** worship services (always with donuts!) at both the Minneapolis and West Campuses. FREE Cathedral Choir shirt when you join!

- Serve your church in a fun and meaningful way
- Be with friends who feel like family
- Grow your faith through music

Whether you're all about choir or just love to sing in the car—Cathedral Choir is where you belong!

## CHANCEL CHOIR

Want to sing, have fun, and be a part of something awesome? Join Chancel Choir! Chancel Choir is a place for **6th, 7th, and 8th graders** to make music, make friends, and make a difference! Whether you've been in choir for years or just like singing along to your favorite songs, you're welcome here.



We meet on **Wednesdays from 5:45–6:30pm** at both campuses (when confirmation is in session), so it's super easy to fit in if you're part of **Confirmation** or **6th Grade Starter**. You don't need to audition or be a "perfect" singer—show up and be ready to sing, grow, and have a great time. Let's make music together!

## CONFIRMATION

The Confirmation program at Mount Olivet allows **7th and 8th graders** to grow stronger in their faith, which is rooted in their baptismal promises. In Confirmation, your child will learn to read and interpret the Bible and learn more about what it means to live as a Christian according to the Lutheran tradition. They will build important relationships with their peers, Mount Olivet pastors, youth staff, and small group leaders. This is the season of life when their faith really starts to become their own!



Confirmation happens weekly at **Mpls and West Wednesdays 7-8pm** and **Mpls Sundays 8:45-9:45am**. If you have questions about Confirmation, please contact, Angie St. Dennis at [angelas@mtolivet.org](mailto:angelas@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2244 for the Mpls Campus, or Kate Campion at [kcampion@mtolivet.org](mailto:kcampion@mtolivet.org) or 952.767.1581 for the West Campus.

## 6TH GRADE STARTER

This program, specifically designed for our 6th graders, meets

**Wednesday evenings from 7-8pm**

from late September until the end of April at both campuses. Through a mixture of small and large group sessions, 6th graders will: build relationships with each other,

strengthen relationships with their pastors and youth staff, practice praying, learn more about the Bible, and, of course, have fun! One of the big faith milestones is receiving your First Communion. We've incorporated First Communion instruction into this program and this spring families will be invited into learning with their 6th graders. 6th Grade Starter sets the stage for Confirmation as a 7th grader.

Questions about the 6th Grade Starter? Please contact Charlie Teien at [cteien@mtolivet.org](mailto:cteien@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2268.





# FEATURED EVENTS



## MOCW SOCIAL

**Wednesday, August 13, 5-7:30pm, Edina Country Club, Free**

Enjoy an evening with the Mount Olivet Church Women! Kick off the year with your Circle friends, learn more about MOCW, and register for events. There will be something for everyone with appetizers, a cash bar, and valet available. No registration required. We look forward to seeing you as we get excited for the upcoming year with MOCW! In addition to this already great fellowship opportunity, we are requesting that attendees bring a donation item for the Dala Houses (kids-only shopping) which happens at the Holiday Boutique and Holiday Market. If you are shopping around and happen to find one of the items listed below, please bring it with you to the Social to donate.

- Minnesota sports teams' merchandise
- Fun men's socks
- Fishing gear
- Golf balls
- Card games/small games
- Gardening tools
- Grilling tools/spices
- Grooming/shaving kit
- Key chains
- Dog toys



## 21ST MOTORHEADS' SHOW & BLESSING SERVICE

**Sunday, August 17, 5-7pm: 5pm Show, 6:30pm Blessing of Motors & Drivers, West Campus, Free**

Featuring awesome vehicles, the Nordic Surf Band, outdoor blessing service, and awards. Food will be served outdoors (bring your own chair). There is no charge for spectators or exhibitors, but donations are encouraged and appreciated! No preregistration necessary (windshield signs and souvenir dash plaques will be available at the event). Rain or shine!



## USHERS & PARKING LOT INTEREST

Want to help out on Sunday mornings at church? We are looking for volunteers to help us in the parking lots at both campuses on as well as Ushers during all three services (especially during the 11am services) to assist in handing out bulletins and taking assisting in the offering during our worship services. The time commitment is 12 Sundays per year, plus special service as needed. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jody Barbee at [jbarbee@mtolivet.org](mailto:jbarbee@mtolivet.org) or 952.767.1501 to volunteer at the West Campus or Julie Reece at [julier@mtolivet.org](mailto:julier@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2260 for Mpls Campus opportunities. We have a meeting and dinner for parking crews and ushers coming up on **Monday, August 25, West Campus** and **Tuesday, August 26, Mpls Campus**.



# UPCOMING AT MOUNT OLIVET

## AUGUST 2025

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

### **WHAT IS GOUACHE? ART CLASS**

**Monday, August 11, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus, \$45**

Gouache is a watercolor medium that dries with a matte finish and can be transparent or opaque, unlike traditional watercolors. In this class you will explore this medium as you learn about mixing, layering and creating texture all while following step-by-step instructions as you create from an example in class. All supplies included.

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

**Tuesday, August 19, 1-2:30pm, Mpls Campus, \$10**

Young in Heart & Friends invites you to join us for our Minnesota State Fair themed event. "Fair on a Stick Squad" will include many samples of our favorite foods-on-a-stick, from tater tot skewers to chocolate dipped treats, there will be something for everyone to enjoy! Don't miss out on this delicious adventure and remember to invite a friend. Register by August 15.

## LOOKING AHEAD!

### **FLYING SOLO BOAT CRUISE**

**Sunday, September 7, 1-4pm, Al & Alma's Supper Club \$75**

Our Flying Solo year will kick off with a boat cruise on Lake Minnetonka! Join us at Al and Alma's for an afternoon of food and fun! Space is limited to 40 guests. Register by Saturday, August 30. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Freeman at [rffreeman@mtolivet.org](mailto:rffreeman@mtolivet.org).

### **PAINT LIKE BERTHE MORISOT ART CLASS**

**Monday, September 22, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus, \$40**

Discover the beauty of Impressionism through the eyes of Berthe Morisot, one of the few renowned female painters of the movement. In this hands-on class, you'll create your own acrylic landscape on an 8x10-inch canvas while learning about Morisot's artistic style and her place in art history. All skill levels are welcome!

### **BRUNCH WITH US!**

**Sunday, October 5, between services, Mpls & West Campuses**

Your church wants to celebrate members being a part of our community of faith, volunteering their time, participating in programming, and steadfast generosity; therefore, Sunday brunch is on us! Join us after worship for food and fellowship. Hope to see you there!

### **MARRIAGE PREP WORKSHOP**

**Saturday, October 25, 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. This fun and engaging 6-hour workshop, along with completing the Prepare Questionnaire and talking through the results with a Pastor or Prepare facilitator, is designed to enrich your relationship as a married couple focusing on important topics like positive communication skills, healthy conflict resolution, financial management, and spirituality. You will have ample time to discuss the topics and materials together as a couple as well as with the other participants. These are all areas we hope will be helpful to you as you mark this momentous occasion and begin your married life together!

### **CRAFT AWAY**

**Saturday, November 1 through Monday, November 3, Conference & Retreat Center, \$260-\$410**

Craft Away is an annual weekend getaway for artists, artisans, creatives, and crafters. Experienced and beginner crafters are invited to Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center for a weekend of uninterrupted crafting. We provide the beautiful space and you bring your projects! Work on your crafting, meet other crafters, enjoy home cooked meals from our kitchen, and relax and unwind with a peaceful walk in the woods or a dip in the whirlpool. Registration is now open.

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**PROGRAMS**

**PRE-K THROUGH 12TH GRADE**

**NOW REGISTERING!**

**AT [MTOLIVET.ORG](http://MTOLIVET.ORG)**