

SEPTEMBER 2025

BELIEVING, BELONGING, BECOMING

MOUNT OLIVET  
MESSENGER

*Called for*  
**GOOD**

*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

## SEPTEMBER 7

**CALLED FOR GOOD:**  
**LIVING STONES**

*1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10*

**M** 9, 10, & 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Lose  
**MUSIC** Cathedral &  
Sanctuary Choirs with  
Brass Quintet &  
Timpani

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

## SEPTEMBER 14

**CALLED FOR GOOD:**  
**THE CALL OF PETER**

*John 21:1-12a, 15-17*

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

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

## SEPTEMBER 21

**CALLED FOR GOOD:**  
**THE CALL OF ABRAHAM**

*Genesis 12:1-5a*

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

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

## SEPTEMBER 28

**CALLED FOR GOOD:**  
**THE CALL OF ESTHER**

*Esther 4:4-14*

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

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

## 9TH GRADE CONFIRMATION SERVICE

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

**M** 1pm & livestreamed at [mtolivet.org](https://mtolivet.org)  
On Sunday, September 14, our ninth-grade students and their families will gather for the Confirmation Service with special music from the Cathedral Choir and Brass Ensemble. It's a significant moment in the lives of our young people where they say "yes" to the promises that God made to them in their baptism. Please hold these young people and their families in prayer on this important day.



# The Purpose and Value of Church

Whenever I think of the purpose of Sunday morning, I think of Tom and Bonnie. They were new members in my first congregation, and when I visited them, they described the importance of Sunday worship this way: “Whenever we can’t both go to church – one of the kids is sick, for instance – we do a quick two-minute drill on who had a harder week or is anticipating challenges in the week to come. Then we decide who needs church more.” *Who needs church more.* Who needs church more to offer words of forgiveness and encouragement after a hard week? Who needs church more to prepare them for the week to come? Who needs church more to give them hope when they’re discouraged? Who needs church more?

What I love about that question is that it points to the importance of Sunday... to prepare us for the rest of the week. Going to church on Sunday isn’t meant to be one more obligation or to make God happy or something you do to be a “good Christian.” In short, it’s not something we do for God. Rather, it is God’s gift to us.

First, God’s command to rest – “keep the Sabbath holy” – has never been more important. A study completed a few years ago noted that the sharp rise in depression and other mental health challenges in the United States over the last several decades nearly mirrors the slow but steady drop-off in church attendance. We need a time to rest, to recharge, to take a break from the mundane and relentless busy-ness of life and be reconnected to God and to each other.

Second, the word “worship” stems from the Old English word “worth-ship,” which means “to ascribe worth and value to something.” While many Christian traditions (and other religions) assert that worship is the place where we ascribe God worth and honor, Lutherans tend to reverse that instinct and believe instead that it is in Sunday worship where we discover how much God values us as we are named God’s beloved children once again.

Third, in worship we not only have our identity refreshed – and, let’s be honest, given the world we live in, it’s hard to believe we’re God’s beloved children for more than about seven days in a row! – it’s also the place we have our call renewed. Worship serves to forgive whatever went amiss the week before, remind us of our identity, and recharge us with a sense of purpose and hope for the week ahead.

Which is why I so regularly invite you to come to church! Because whenever I see you at church on Sunday, I know you are receiving God’s gifts of worth, hope, faith, and purpose, and I know that your week and – through your calling – the whole world will be better for it.

So two quick questions:

1. What is your favorite reason for going to church? This seems like an especially timely question as we head toward September, Rally Sunday, and the beginning of a new program year. I know there are countless things that may get in the way of making it to church on any given Sunday – too much work to catch up on, it’s hard to get the kids ready, etc. – but I also know that you almost never regret it once you’re there.
2. What value do you place on the experience of being a part of Mount Olivet? That’s the central question we ask during Stewardship. Do you value this place and all that it offers – from Sunday morning worship with excellent music and incisive preaching to extensive programming to personal care for you at every stage of life to numerous opportunities for fellowship and education to significant and salutary outreach into our communities – do you value all of this enough to generously support it, invest in it, and help it grow? How does your investment in Mount Olivet compare with your other investments – whether in vacations or memberships or in countless other things we value and so invest in? These are important questions and how you answer them will shape what we can accomplish in the year to come.

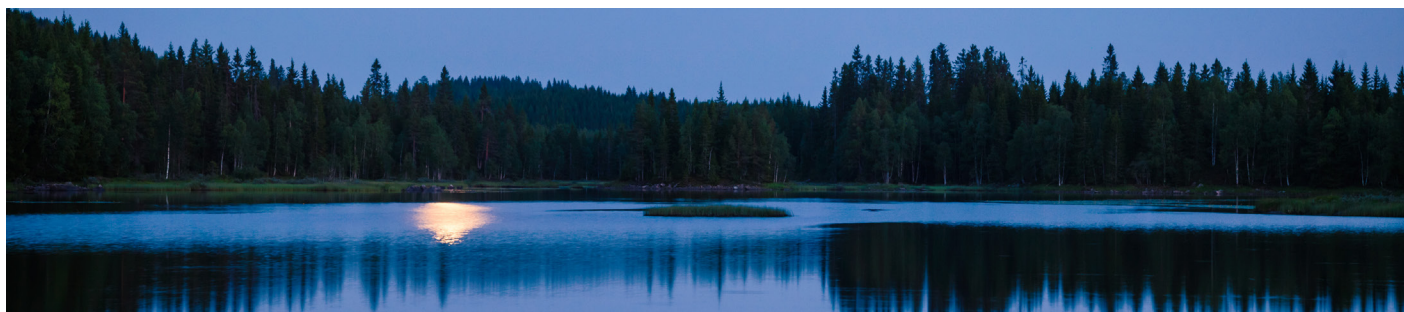
My hope is that you want to be at Mount Olivet – on Sundays and at other times, too! – because of the way you feel God’s love and calling. And I hope that you are willing to invest in what happens here so we can continue to care for you and so many others. Thank you in advance for your faithful generosity. And...

I’ll see you in Church!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR



## Take An Appreciation Break

In a culture of 24/7 ads inviting you to want more, it's easy to fall into a scarcity mindset. It goes like this. First, you find yourself thinking, "My house, job, car" (fill in the blank) "isn't enough; I should get a new/bigger/better one." Then, not only did the newer or bigger thing not truly satisfy, or at least not for long, but you had to work harder or longer to pay for it and feel a little more stressed. Before long, you wonder if something newer or bigger would make you feel better. And so on and so on.

One huge counter to the scarcity mindset is to take note of what you appreciate about what you already have. What is it you love about your house, job, car, (again, fill in the blank)? Even more, what do you appreciate about the people around you? Or the opportunities you have? Or the communities of which you are a part? When you do this, not only do you find greater happiness and satisfaction, but those people and things you have actively appreciated become even more important to you. Which leads to you investing more of yourself in them, rather than in trying to find something "better." (And, when it comes to appreciating those around you, tell them, as it will increase your joy and theirs as well!)

Lynn Twist, author of "The Soul of Money," puts it this way: "What you appreciate, appreciates." This kind of active appreciation not only stops the scarcity cycle but soon grows into an abundance mindset that gives you greater energy, satisfaction, and joy. So sometime today – and you can do this easily each day of the week – take an "appreciation break." Actively look around you and name what you appreciate about the people and things in your life. You will notice the difference almost immediately.

## Do You Know... *What the Sabbath Is?*

The third commandment tells us to "keep the Sabbath holy." But do you know what "sabbath" means? It comes from the Hebrew word "shabat" which means "to rest, cease, and find renewal." And while we often experience it as a commandment prohibiting us from having too much fun, or from shopping on Sundays, or as a demand that we attend church, it felt quite different to the ancient Hebrews.

Keep in mind that the Ten Commandments (or, more faithful to the original Hebrew, the "Ten Words of Wisdom") were given to the Israelites shortly after their rescue from Egypt. Which means these recent slaves probably heard the command to rest as good news: "Wait, what did you say? I actually get to rest? Amazing!" It was for this reason that Judaism set aside a day, Saturday, the seventh day of the week, as a day of rest for everyone.

Early Christians shifted their "sabbath" to Sunday in recognition of Christ's resurrection. And during the Reformation, people connected keeping the commandment with going to church because it was at church that you heard the good news that you are God's child, beloved not because of anything you did or accomplished the last six days, but simply loved for who you are.

Significant research of late suggests a major correlation between the loss of any sense of sabbath in American culture and sky-rocketing rates of mental illness, particularly stress-induced depression. We need rest. We crave it. And, according to God, we deserve it.

So how might you reclaim a sense of sabbath? Certainly going to church reconnects you with a community that cares about you and offers you the chance to be reminded of how much God loves you. What else might help? Could you leave your smartphone in a drawer on Sundays? Or don't respond to emails or do work? Could you allow extra time to cook with your family or go out for coffee with a friend?

Sabbath. Rest. Renewal. As it turns out, they are as important to us as they were to the ancient Israelites. Maybe it's time to take that word of wisdom more seriously.





## LIFE & GROWTH

### JUL 16 - AUG 14

#### BAPTISMS

**Easton Koby Anderson**

*son of Molly and Josh*

**Franklin Arthur Bennett**

*son of Marianne and Charlie*

**Vivian Harriet Bennett**

*daughter of Marianne and Charlie*

**Paul Timothy Boline**

*son of Annie and Luke*

**Suzette Lillia Budd**

*daughter of Lillia and Alex*

**Charlotte Isla Callahan**

*daughter of Margaret and Brian*

**Finn Werner Carlson**

*son of Kristine and Josh*

**Freya Rose Carlson**

*daughter of Kristine and Josh*

**Carter Michael Cyr**

*son of Elaine and Joseph*

**Maxwell James DiCosimo**

*son of Sung*

**Piper Elizabeth Gelecinskyj**

*daughter of Jacqueline and Anders*

**Hudson James Howe**

*son of Amy and Eric*

**Leo Paxton Howe**

*son of Amy and Eric*

**William Raymond Kotrba**

**Blaire Adalyn Matuseski**

*daughter of Justine and Aaron*

**Mabel June Nelson**

*daughter of Amanda and Tyler*

**Ren Chester Papierniak**

*son of Rika and Adam*

**Georgia Leone Plemmons**

*daughter of Samantha and Patrick*

**Sloane Jules Swaney**

*daughter of Emily and Nicholas*

**Alexander van Hooff**

*son of Emily and Jeroen*

**Isabella Joy van Hooff**

*daughter of Emily and Jeroen*

**Griffin Austin Woodbury**

*son of Lesley and Nate*

#### WEDDINGS

**Annika Thompson & Jacob Arnt,**

*July 19*

**Hayley Trebil & Alexander Budde,**

*July 26*

**Emily Anderson and William Nessa,**

*August 1*

**Julia Carter & Nathan LoPresto,**

*August 9*

#### DEATHS

**Hanna Ashby**

**Greg A. Cornica**

**Richard J. Lindeman**

**Harvey G. Redepenning**

**Joyce S. Pedersen**

**Richard F. Stanford**

**JoAnn D. Swanson**

**Anita N. Winegarden**

## DEVOTION

I've always loved cemeteries. For as far back as I can remember, walking among the tombstones, and reading the names of those who came before us, has brought me peace. Tom and I even got a great deal on our first home because it was right next to a cemetery! On our very first Halloween, imagine our dismay when nary a soul dared come to our door, until a group of teenagers came by "because we figured you would have a lot of candy left."



Cemeteries remind us that our lives here on earth are but a snapshot in time, a mere blip on the continuum of eternity. We are here for so few days, really. Placed on earth by God to love one another and care for one another and the world that God has made. As the saying goes: We're all just walking each other home.

And when we stumble and veer off track, falling short in our care for the least of these? No worries, God leaves us a map to help us find The Way.

**"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh, rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one commandment: Love your neighbor as yourself" — Galatians 5:13-14**

So simple, and yet so profoundly difficult.

**Help us, Lord, to fulfill Your deepest desire, that we love all Your children as You have loved us. Amen.**

— PASTOR HAMMERSTEN

## 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! The Sanctuary Choirs include singers with a diverse range of abilities. Join us—and discover the joy of music in a community of faith. If you are interested in joining at either campus, please fill out our online interest form at [mtolivet.org/sanctuary-choir-interest](http://mtolivet.org/sanctuary-choir-interest) or contact Dr. Beverly Claffin at [beverlyc@mtolivet.org](mailto:beverlyc@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2263 with questions.

## VOLUNTEER AT CHURCH: USHERS NEEDED

We are in need of ushers at both our Mpls and West Campuses. 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 in our congregation. If you are interested in being an usher at the West Campus, please contact Jody Barbee at [jbarbee@mtolivet.org](mailto:jbarbee@mtolivet.org) or 952.767.1501, for Mpls Campus usher interest, contact Julie Reece at [julier@mtolivet.org](mailto:julier@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2260.

# Called for GOOD

This year's Stewardship theme, *Called for Good*, is inspired by Romans 8:28: "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." It's a powerful reminder that God calls everyone—not just for church work, but for the sacred work of everyday life.

Good is created through a myriad of vocations: public servants, caregivers, artists, salespeople, coaches, and more. Good is also created through the many roles you play—parent, child, friend, neighbor, co-worker, citizen—and your life becomes a gift to the world.

I offer three invitations for you this September:

- **Come to worship on Sundays** as we explore what it means to live a life *Called for Good*.
- **Enjoy one of our Stewardship meals**—whether it's a dinner or a drive-through—as we celebrate the past year and look forward to what's ahead.
- **Pause, pray about, and complete your 2026 financial pledge and/or set up (or update) your scheduled giving.** Your gifts sustain all our ministries at Mount Olivet. Through worship, learning, service, and community, Mount Olivet strives to equip and encourage you to live out your calling in all areas of your life.

As poet Mary Oliver asked, "Tell me, what do you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" Let's answer this together in September and beyond with generosity, with purpose, and with joy.

Because we are all *Called for Good*.

KATIE STEVENSON, *Director of Stewardship*

**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!



# STEWARDSHIP MEALS

Register online at [mtolivet.org](https://mtolivet.org), by calling 612.926.7651, at church, or using the QR Code below!

We look forward to seeing you!



DATE	TIME	CAMPUS	MEAL TYPE
Mon, Sep 8	5-6pm	Mpls	Drive-Through
Wed, Sep 10*	6-7pm	Mpls	Traditional
Fri, Sep 12	12noon-1pm	Mpls	Traditional
Mon, Sep 15	6-7pm	Mpls	Traditional
Wed, Sep 17*	6-7pm	West	Traditional
Thu, Sep 18	6-7pm	Mpls	Traditional
Sun, Sep 21*	12noon-1pm	West	Traditional
Mon, Sep 22	5-6pm	West	Drive-Through
Tue, Sep 23	5-6pm	Mpls	Drive-Through
Thu, Sep 25	6-7pm	Mpls	Traditional

*\*Nursery provided for six-week through six-year-old children. Registration required.*

## PLEDGE

Please take time to pause, pray, and make your 2026 commitment to Mount Olivet. To make your 2026 pledge:



- Use the PLEDGE QR Code
- Complete the pledge card you received in the mail in August
- Go online to [mtolivet.org/stewardship](https://mtolivet.org/stewardship)
- Contact Tricia Lerohl-Morgan, Coordinator of Financial Records, at [tricial@mtolivet.org](mailto:tricial@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2255.
- *If you fulfill your pledge via scheduled giving, please update your scheduled giving to reflect your 2026 pledge—it does not happen automatically. Thank you for taking this extra step!*

## GIVE

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



- Use the GIVE QR Code
- Visit [mtolivet.org](https://mtolivet.org) under GIVING
- Contact Tricia Lerohl-Morgan, Coordinator of Financial Records, at [tricial@mtolivet.org](mailto:tricial@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2255
- *If you fulfill your pledge via scheduled giving, please update your scheduled giving to reflect your 2026 pledge—it does not happen automatically. Thank you for taking this extra step!*

## 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!

# LIVING THE MESSAGE

## STORIES THAT SHAPE US

Series runs the first Tuesday of the month, October 2025 through May 2026, 6:30-7:30pm, or via emailed videos.

All held at the Mpls Campus except November and April, which are held at the West Campus.

This year's *Living the Message* will be co-taught by multiple Mount Olivet pastors who will each share a biblical story that has shaped them over the course of their lives. These are among their favorite stories, but also more, as they are the stories that have shaped our pastors' sense of who God is, what our lives as Christians can be like, and how we can view the world differently because of the biblical witness. Our pastors will open up these passages in a way they hope will allow these same powerful stories to shape you as well, bolstering your faith, renewing your sense of God's presence in your life, and inviting you to lives of greater meaning and purpose in light of God's promises. All are welcome at any time.

### **11 KINGS 22: KNOW YOUR STORY, KNOW YOURSELF** **TAUGHT BY PASTOR LOSE**

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

I had been a pastor for nearly 20 years when I stumbled upon this relatively obscure story in the book of Second Kings about a young king of Israel who discovers a lost "book of the law." When King Josiah reads it, he discovers that the story of Israel and its relationship with God had nearly been lost. He also realizes that many of Israel's problems could be traced to losing their story and, with it, their identity. That passage continues to speak powerfully to me as I realize just how influential stories are in our lives. Stories shape our identity, form our values, and provide a lens through which we interpret the significant events of our life. Further, there are so many competing stories out there that seek to influence us, and not all of these stories are life-giving. Which is why this passage describing events more than 2,500 years ago is worth listening to and learning from today. It reminded Israel of their primary relationship with God, changed the course of their history, and set the stage for the life and ministry of the young rabbi Jesus who would continue and deepen the story of God's love for Israel and all the world. Moreover, that story continues into our own day and, when we recall it, we are strengthened and equipped to meet the challenges of our day armed with the same confidence that guided Josiah all those years ago.

PASTOR LOSE

# WORD WITH YOUR PASTORS

## WORDS OF FAITH, WORDS OF LIFE: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS REDISCOVERED

**WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 15 THROUGH NOVEMBER 5, 10:30-11:30AM, MPLS CAMPUS AND VIA VIDEOS**

**THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 16 THROUGH NOVEMBER 6, 10:30-11:30AM, WEST CAMPUS**

Do you know the Ten Commandments? Of course you do! Most of us learned about them during confirmation and could recite many of them – especially the "thou shalt not" ones! – by heart. But do you really know the Ten Commandments? That is, do you know why God gave them to the people of Israel? Do you know what their purpose was and continues to be? Do you know how influential they were in the theology of Martin Luther? Do you know that the "thou shalt nots" we know so well were not so much intended as prohibitions but as invitations to lives of greater freedom and joy? Do you know...

Do you see what I mean? Many of us know the Ten Commandments at face value but have not necessarily explored the gift they were intended to be... and still can be. So come and join Pastors Cieslik, Dixon, Lose, and Olson Popp for a four-week immersion into those familiar verses and discover anew the Ten Commandments as "words of faith and life."

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ALL ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES OR TO REGISTER VISIT  
MTOLIVET.ORG/EDUCATION OR CONTACT KATIE STEVENSON AT KATIES@MTOLIVET.ORG OR  
612.767.2232.**





## SUMMER DAY CAMP STAFF HIGHLIGHTS!

As we've wrapped up a great summer of Day Camps – our camp staff were happy to share their summer highlights!



### KATELYNN PONCIN

My summer highlight was our whole camp water day. All the kids love being outside and playing with the water games and toys. The water balloon fight is also very fun and competitive.



### EMILY OHNSORG

My highlight of the summer was Summertime Players! The middle schoolers were so much fun to hang out with and I had a blast teaching them choreography for the show!



### ELLIE HECKER

The highlight of my summer was meeting all of the kids and getting to see them come back each week!! My favorite week of the summer was Imagination Creation! I loved seeing everyone show off their creative skills and try something new!



### KAITLYN WISDORF

My highlight of this summer was leading a scavenger hunt with campers around the church, where they explored different areas of service. It was a joy seeing their excitement and teamwork in action. Their enthusiasm brought smiles to everyone throughout the building!



### DORA NAUGHTON OSIER

My summer highlight was the Imagination Creation talent show! Whether it was working together on a routine, overcoming stage fright, or supporting fellow campers as they perform, it was so much fun to see all of them working together and showing off their talents!



### ANNIE KLEMMENSEN

My highlight from summer was visiting the Works Museum. It was fun watching kids craft the perfect paper airplane and launch them through the machine toward the targets. It's been especially fun seeing their creative sides come out through all of our activities.



### CADI STREETAR

Going Wild week was my favorite because we got to go to the Minnesota Zoo, the Richardson Nature Center, and had Bruce the Bug Guy come! I also loved getting to see the kids experience new things!



### SOPHIE NORMAN

My summer highlight was playing laser tag and exploring the Fun Lab with campers at Super STEM week!



## REGISTER FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL!

We invite children in preschool through 5th grade 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.

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, with questions at [Amyp@mtolivet.org](mailto:Amyp@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2285.



## 4TH GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

Sunday, September 28, 11am, West Campus OR Sunday, October 5, 11am, Mpls Campus

At baptism, parents make a promise to help their children grow in the Christian faith and life. As a community of faith, we also make a promise to support the newly baptized in their life in Christ. One way we honor this promise together is by presenting Bibles to students during Sunday School. We invite 4th graders and their parent(s) to an informational class and Bible presentation. This is an exciting day for these young people and their families as they continue to grow in faith and learn more about God's story!

Contact Katy Michaletz, Director of Children & Family Ministry, at [kmichaletz@mtolivet.org](mailto:kmichaletz@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2245 with questions.







# UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES



## HI-LEAGUE KICK-OFF

**SEPTEMBER 7**

Calling all highschoolers, Hi-League is back!! Help us kick off the new year with games, snacks, and maybe even a dunk tank!

MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH

**CONFIRMATION**  
The AFFIRMATION of BAPTISM



## CONFIRMATION SERVICE

**SEPTEMBER 14**

We are looking forward to celebrating our Confirmation Class of 2025. This is the biggest class we have ever had at Mount Olivet. We are so proud of them all!



## CONFIRMATION & 6TH GRADE STARTER ORIENTATION

**SEPTEMBER 10, MPLS  
SEPTEMBER 17, WEST**

6th and 7th graders, along with their parents, are invited to join us and learn.



## JHA FALL FEST

**SEPTEMBER 20**

The Junior High Youth Staff is excited to spend a day full of fall fun with our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Outside friends are welcome to join as well. Please register at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) or on *Realm*.



## HI-LEAGUE STEWARDSHIP DINNER

**SEPTEMBER 21**

There are many ways to be generous! Highschoolers are encouraged to join us in learning about Stewardship and the ways in which you can make a difference.



## 6TH-8TH GRADE PROGRAMMING STARTS!

**SEPTEMBER 24**

What does a usual Wednesday night look like for our middle schoolers?  
Chancel Choir: 5:45-6:30pm  
\$5 Dinner: 6:30-7pm  
6th Grade Starter: 7-8pm  
Confirmation: 7-8pm



## SENIOR RETREAT

**SEPTEMBER 26-28**

There is no better place to see the beautiful fall colors than in Lutsen! Seniors in high school are invited to Cathedral of the Pines Camp for a special weekend with their class.



## FIRST SUNDAY MORNING CONFIRMATION

**SEPTEMBER 28**

If you are interested in Confirmation but Wednesdays are too busy for you, no worries! We offer Sunday morning Confirmation at the Minneapolis Campus from 8:45-9:45am.



# RE-IMAGINING SENIOR CARE FOR YOUR LOVED ONES

*ALYSHA GRANT, Marketing & Admissions Manager at Mount Olivet Day Services*

Since 1995, Mount Olivet Day Services (MODS) has been a trusted resource and pillar of the South Minneapolis community. Originally offering intergenerational day care, MODS shifted in 2021 to focus exclusively on adult day care services. Today, our mission remains steadfast: to provide personalized care, meaningful connections, and compassionate support for seniors and adults with disabilities. Our dedicated team has proudly served hundreds of individuals from diverse backgrounds, offering caregivers the vital respite and peace of mind they deserve.

Caring for an aging loved one often comes with a steep learning curve. Navigating complex health insurance plans, Social Security, retirement, estate planning, and setting up a reliable support system can be overwhelming. That's where Adult Day Services (ADS) plays a crucial role.

ADS programs are designed to meet the assessed health, social, and emotional needs of adults during the day, while allowing them to return to the comfort of their homes each evening. These programs provide structured enrichment, opportunities for social connection, and specialized care in a safe, welcoming environment.

At Mount Olivet Day Services, we foster a warm, close-knit community where participants can thrive. They build friendships, explore interests, and engage in a wide range of enjoyable activities—while maintaining a sense of purpose and independence. At MODS, every day is filled with opportunities for joy, movement, and connection. Our thoughtfully curated activity calendar ensures that participants stay engaged, stimulated, and supported in both body and mind. Some of our most beloved offerings include: small group activities, daily exercise, crafts, games, and weekly field trips.

We're also thrilled to introduce our brand-new outdoor patio, a beautiful, accessible space designed for use during the warmer months. This private, serene setting is perfect for fresh-air activities, sunshine-filled conversations, music, gardening, and seasonal celebrations. It's just one more way we enhance the lives of our participants through engaging programming and heartfelt connection.



# *October is Estate Planning Awareness Month*

## **YOU'RE INVITED: ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOPS AT MOUNT OLIVET**

October is National Estate Planning Awareness Month—a timely opportunity to reflect on how we can faithfully plan for the future. Estate planning isn't just a legal task; it's an act of love and stewardship, aligning our resources with our values and care for others. To support you in this important process, the Mount Olivet Development Department invites you to attend one of our upcoming Estate Planning Workshops. These engaging and practical sessions are designed to help you take the next step—whether you're just getting started or reviewing a current plan.

### **WORKSHOP OPTIONS**

Hosted by Peter Youngdahl, Director of Development, and Rev. Brian Mortenson, Head of Vision Partners

Choose the session that works best for you:

**Tuesday, October 14, 6pm, West Campus (Refreshments at 5:45pm)**

**Wednesday, October 15, 10am, Mpls Campus (Refreshments at 9:45am)**

Each session will last approximately 90 minutes. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged.

### **FEATURED PRESENTERS**

Our featured speaker is **Jason Watt, JD, CPA**, and Mount Olivet member. Jason will walk attendees through key components of estate planning, including:

- Wills and Trusts – directing your assets according to your wishes
- Healthcare Directives and Financial Powers of Attorney – preparing for unforeseen circumstances
- Beneficiary Designations – including loved ones and charitable gifts that reflect your faith and values

He will also introduce strategic planning tools that can help you:

- create a lifetime income stream
- make a meaningful charitable gift
- realize significant tax advantages

You'll also hear from **Joe Sullivan**, ELCA Foundation Gift Planner, and **Kimberly Gray**, Mount Olivet member, Vision Partner, and estate planning attorney, who will join for a live Q&A.

We hope you'll join us for this inspiring and informative event.

To register, visit [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org), call 612.767.2214, or email [development@mtolivet.org](mailto:development@mtolivet.org).



# FEATURED EVENTS



## COFFEE AND CONVERSATION: HOW TO TRANSFORM HEARING LOSS TO RECONNECT WITH OTHERS

**Saturday, September 27, 9:30-11 am, West Campus, FREE**

Join us for coffee and conversation with our guest speaker Brenda Hunter-Hanson, Bilingual Engagement Manager with Cochlear Americas. Brenda will share the various types of hearing loss, the importance of regular hearing check-ups, and solutions to hearing loss which help people stay connected to others and lead full and active lives. Contact Julie Goodman at [julieg@mtolivet.org](mailto:julieg@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2208 with questions.

### LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

My name is **Brenda Hunter-Hanson**. My husband, two daughters and I live in southwest Minneapolis and are members at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church. Our family is very engaged with church particularly in Cathedral and Chancel Choirs, as well as many other youth offerings at church. Several years ago, I began exploring the idea of doing something more meaningful and impactful professionally and left my job in healthcare technology to join Cochlear Americas as a Bilingual Engagement Manager. In my role, I raise awareness about hearing loss, the various types of hearing loss and solutions for treating hearing loss. I help people of all ages to hear and be heard and empower them to connect with others to lead full and active lives. My purpose is to help transform the way people understand and treat hearing loss, as well as to transform how people with hearing loss are treated. I look forward to gathering in September!

— **BRENDA HUNTER-HANSON**

## DROP-IN CHOIR

**Rehearsal: Thursday, October 2, 7-8pm, West Campus**

**Singing: Sunday, October 5, 10-11:30am, West Campus**

We are excited to offer a first-ever Drop-In Choir at the West Campus. This is a fun, low-risk opportunity for anyone who loves to sing, whether you're a former choir member, a visitor, or just curious about trying choir for the first time. All are welcome! You will be joined by the West Sanctuary Choir, and Director, Brandon Berger, who will be thrilled to welcome you. All it takes is one rehearsal and then singing for Sunday morning. Come and give it a try!



## BRUNCH WITH US!

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

Your church wants to celebrate our members being a part of our community of faith, volunteering their time, participating in programming, and steadfast generosity! Join us after worship for food and fellowship. Brunch items may include: egg sandwiches and pastries from our amazing kitchen, crepes from La Belle Crepe.





# UPCOMING AT MOUNT OLIVET

## SEPTEMBER 2025

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

### **YOUNG IN HEART & FRIENDS STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON**

**Friday, September 12, 12noon, Mpls Campus**

Join us for Stewardship Lunch, reservations required online at [mtolivet.org](https://mtolivet.org), or by calling church at 612.926.7651.

### **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 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!

### **GATHER WITH GRACE HOSPICE**

**Thursday, September 25, 5:30-8pm, Hyland Hills Chalet in Bloomington**

Grace Hospice is a non-profit, faith-based organization, owned by Mount Olivet and Cassia, serving individuals at end-of-life throughout the Twin Cities metro and surrounding areas. The annual fundraising event, *Gather with Grace* will offer an evening of music, memories, meaningful connections, raise support for our mission, and celebrate the work we do, together! For tickets or more information, please visit [gracecaring.org](https://gracecaring.org).

### **CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP**

**Tuesdays, September 30 through November 18, 1-2pm, Mpls Campus, \$100**

The caregiving experience can be many things at once: rewarding, challenging, enlightening, and overwhelming. Led by Sarah Strasen, LICSW, this group offers connection, resources, and encouragement for anyone currently in a caregiving role. In this time set apart from the day-to-day, we will look for sources of hope, resilience, and compassion within ourselves and one another.

## LOOKING AHEAD!

### **17TH MOTORHEADS' FALL TOUR: HENDERSON ROLL-IN ENCORE**

**Sunday, October 5, 11am, West Campus, Cost: What you buy in Henderson**

Back by popular demand! After church, meet in the parking lot for a group photo before we head out for a beautiful drive along the MN River Valley. We'll end at the city of Henderson where we will participate in the Roll-In Encore — cool cars, food trucks, and more! Your return trip is on your own.

### **FIKA MUSIC SERIES: UNCLE KENNY BLUEGRASS GROUP**

**Sunday, October 12, 2-3pm, Mpls Campus \*New Time!\***

Get ready for a foot-stomping good time with Uncle Kenny, a four-piece string band showcasing some of the most talented pickers in the Twin Cities. Known for their high-energy performances and top-tier musicianship, Uncle Kenny delivers a tasteful blend of bluegrass, old time, classic country, and jazz. Whether you're a longtime bluegrass fan or new to the genre, Uncle Kenny brings heart, soul, and serious chops to every stage they play.

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

**Thursdays, October 23 through December 18, 2:30-4pm, 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.

### **MARRIAGE PREP WORKSHOP**

**Saturday, October 25, 9:30am- 3:30pm, Mpls Campus, \$150, plus \$35 scoring fee for the Prepare Inventory**

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!



MOUNT OLIVET  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**STEWARDSHIP 2026**

*Called for*

**GOOD**

**REGISTER FOR A MEAL TODAY!**

To register visit [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org), call church at 612.926.7651, or in-person at either campus!

**MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH**