



MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 3, 2025

Dear Mount Olivet Family,

As we continue to process, and try to respond to, the tragic shooting at Annunciation Church and School last week, I want to begin with a word of thanks to our staff. From the pastoral care offered, to responding to our families who were affected, to offering consistent and timely communication, to supporting each other and the larger community, our staff responded with care, compassion, and commitment, and I am grateful for their good work. I am grateful, too, for your prayers, support, suggestions and more. It was good to be together on Sunday, to offer hugs and support to one another, and to hear the words of our preachers that made space for our grief even as they sounded the gospel of hope to which we cling. It is that gospel promise of God's continued presence and support that anchors us in our resolve to be a place of help, healing, and hope. In that spirit, I want to offer several updates.

Supporting the Annunciation Community

We continue to be in communication with our neighbors at Annunciation to discern how we can best support them. From making available our sanctuaries and classroom space, to having trained counselors and pastors available, to offering financial support, there is much we can do to make a difference, and we will take each step in coordination with the leaders and staff at Annunciation. One immediate response is to offer, at the request of Annunciation leaders, a "Healing Together" event for their staff and parents, and that will happen this evening in our Mpls Campus Fellowship Hall. Outside trauma counselors will be here to facilitate the event, and our Counseling Center staff will also be onsite to support the evening.

Counseling Resources

Knowing you may have occasion to process this news with your children, grandchildren, or young people in your life, we want to offer two resources that may be helpful:

- [Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Families and Educators](#)
- [Helping Children Cope: Talking with Kids About Violence and Tragedy in the News](#)

It may also be helpful to know of a local group that offers counseling to children and families at no charge: [The Grief Club of Minnesota](#).

Safety and Security

I am sure many of you are wondering about the measures we take regarding safety and security at Mount Olivet. For a number of years, we have drafted, implemented, revised, and improved plans to keep our staff and members at both campuses safe. Those plans are facilitated by trained police officers and other first-responders, and we have been told on more than one occasion that we are one of the safest public sites in the Twin Cities. After last Wednesday, of course, we will review with renewed urgency all of the plans we have and consider what additional and concrete steps we can take to deter those of bad intent and heighten the safety and security of all who come to Mount Olivet.

Memorial Service

The Mount Olivet Mpls Campus will be hosting the memorial service for Fletcher Merkel this Sunday, September 7, at 4pm with a visitation period from 2-4pm. This is a public funeral that will also be livestreamed at mtolivet.org. The family has requested that attendees do not wear black, as they want to emphasize the joy of being Fletcher's parents for eight years while also providing a time for the community to grieve.

Upcoming

Finally, this Sunday is also Rally Sunday, one of the "big" Sundays of the year as we welcome choirs back to the loft, children back to Sunday School, anticipate Stewardship dinners, and look forward to all the programs and possibilities the fall holds. This Rally Sunday will feel different, just as almost everything does in the wake of tragedy. Yet our call to share the news of God's abiding love and ever-present support has never been more urgent or important. Further, I believe that one of the ways we bear witness to our hope in Christ is to not give into fear and so carry on our usual duties and activities not simply with a semblance of normalcy, but with renewed commitment and resolve. For this reason, I invite you to join us for worship on Sunday, to attend one of the upcoming stewardship dinners, to offer your support to each other and all the good work done by our congregation, and to continue to pray for this church, our neighbors at Annunciation, and our larger community.

I will close with our weekly sending prayer, hearing the words of petition and promise afresh in light of our current situation and calling: *Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Yours in Christ,
Senior Pastor Lose

mtolivet.org

Mount Olivet Church | Mpls Campus- 5025 Knox Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55419 West
Campus- 7150 Rolling Acres Road | Victoria, MN 55386 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!