

OCTOBER 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

## OCTOBER 5

**EXODUS: THE ROAD TO**  
**FREEDOM**

**A NEW PHARAOH**

*Exodus 1:8-21*

**M** 9, 10, & 11am

**SERMON** Pastor Dixon

**MUSIC** Alleluia, Cathedral,  
& Sanctuary Choirs

**W** 9, 10, & 11am

**SERMON** Pastor Kalland

**MUSIC** Alleluia, Cathedral,  
& Sanctuary Choirs

## OCTOBER 12

**EXODUS: THE ROAD TO**  
**FREEDOM**

**MOSES RESCUED**

*Exodus 1:22-2:10*

*Mental Health Sunday*

**M** 9, 10, & 11am

**SERMON** Pastor Freeman

**MUSIC** Hosanna, Cathedral,  
& Sanctuary Choirs

**W** 9, 10, & 11am

**SERMON** Pastor Cieslik

**MUSIC** Hosanna, Cathedral,  
& Sanctuary Choirs

## OCTOBER 19

**EXODUS: THE ROAD TO**  
**FREEDOM**

**MOSES FLEES PHARAOH**

*Exodus 2:11-15, 23-25*

**M** 9, 10, & 11am

**SERMON** Pastor Hammersten

**MUSIC** Handbell Choir

**W** 9, 10, & 11am

**SERMON** Pastor Olson Popp

**MUSIC** Tony Potts, baritone

## OCTOBER 26

**EXODUS: THE ROAD TO**  
**FREEDOM**

**THE DIVINE NAME**

**REVEALED**

*Exodus 3:1-15*

*Reformation Sunday*

**M** 9, 10, & 11am

**SERMON** Pastor Lose

**MUSIC** Cathedral, Chancel, &  
Sanctuary Choirs

**W** 9, 10, & 11am

**SERMON** Pastor Dixon

**MUSIC** Cathedral, Chancel, &  
Sanctuary Choirs

## MENTAL HEALTH SUNDAY

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12**

World Mental Health Day is Friday, October 10, and we'll be observing it during our worship services on Sunday, October 12. Staff from the Mount Olivet Counseling Center, along with members from the Mental Health Task Force and Mental Health Connect will be here to share educational information and resources. It is important to take good care of mental health. Please stop by our tables in the Lower Narthex at the Mpls Campus and in the Atrium at the West Campus.



# Martin Luther On...

We are Lutherans. Or, more accurately, we are Christians in the Lutheran tradition. Which means that our understanding of Scripture and the Christian tradition is most heavily influenced by the work and theology of Martin Luther, a German theologian who lived from 1483-1546 and is credited with leading the Reformation. When you think of Martin Luther, I'm guessing that a few elements of his theology – like “justification by grace” – come to mind. But many of us have very little idea of the breadth, depth, and significance of his theology and his impact on Western history.

Did you know, for instance, that Martin Luther is considered one of the most influential figures in the second millennium of the Western world? Did you know that Luther published more books and essays than any other writer in history? Did you know that, next to Jesus, Luther is the most written about figure in history? Yes, he made a difference! Since we will celebrate Reformation Sunday on October 26, I thought it would be fun to explore a few elements of his beliefs through his actual writings. As you read, think about where you see evidence of Luther's influence on our life together at Mount Olivet.

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JUSTIFICATION

Let's start where it all started. Luther was born in a world where you needed to do “good works” to have your sins forgiven. Though he tried to do this with all his heart, he never felt he'd done enough. As he writes, “Though I lived as a monk without reproach, I felt I was a sinner before God... and I could not believe that he was placated by my good works. So I did not love, indeed, I hated the righteous God who punishes sinners....” Once Luther realized that we are accepted and forgiven by God unconditionally because God loves us, everything changed. As he writes, “I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates.”

## LIVING OUR CALLINGS

Because we do not have to earn God's love, we are free – indeed, urged! – to love our neighbors. Luther introduced the idea that the work of God was not confined to church but that each and every Christian does God's work each time we take care of our neighbor. Wherever we find ourselves, and whatever we may do for a living or as a hobby or act of volunteering, can be a calling, and that work is as important as anything done in the church. As Luther writes, “A cobbler, a smith, a farmer, each has the work and office of his trade, and yet they are all alike consecrated priests and bishops,

and everyone by means of his own work [can] benefit and serve others, so that in this way many kinds of work may be done for the... welfare of the community.”

## NOTHING IS TOO LOWLY OR ORDINARY TO BE A CALLING

The key for Luther is not the significance of the task or role, but that we do it for the sake of someone else. This is true even when it is uncommon or, given the gender norms of Luther's day, unseemly. As he writes, “When a father goes ahead and washes diapers or performs some other menial task for his child, even though someone ridicules him as an effeminate fool,... yet God with all his angels and creatures is smiling.” Interestingly, some believe that Luther's elevation of the importance of parenting is still evident in the generous parenting leave granted in Scandinavia and Germany.

## LUTHER ON THE POWER OF MUSIC

Luther loved music because of the way it combined words that could convey the gospel yet moved our emotions in a way that mere speech rarely does: “I would certainly like to praise music with all my heart as the excellent gift of God which it is and to commend it to everyone. But... as much as I want to commend it, my praise is bound to be wanting and inadequate. For who can comprehend it all.... So we can mention only one point; namely, that next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.”

## LUTHER ON PUBLIC EDUCATION

Luther is considered one of the first advocates for public education. Writing to “the councilmen in all cities in Germany,” Luther asserts that, “A city's best and greatest welfare, safety, and strength consist rather in its having many able, learned, wise, honorable, and well-educated citizens.” He then argues, “My dear Sirs, if we have to spend such large sums every year on guns, roads, bridges, dams, and countless similar items to ensure the temporal peace and prosperity of a city, why should not much more be devoted to the poor neglected youth — at least enough to engage one or two competent people to teach school?”

See you in Church! (Oh, and don't forget to wear some red on Reformation Sunday!)



*Pastor Lose*

**DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR**

# A FUTURE WITH HOPE!

As part of Mount Olivet's Centennial Celebration, the Church commissioned the Pastor Dennis Johnson to write a history of the past twenty-five years of Mount Olivet to follow the history written for the 75th anniversary previously. Johnson was the ideal candidate for this assignment, as he served as Mount Olivet's interim Senior Pastor from the fall of 2015 to the spring of 2017. Previously, he served as the VP for Church Relations (1985-2000) and interim President (2002-2003) at Gustavus Adolphus College.

Because of the generosity of Mount Olivet's members to our Centennial Fund, we are able to give our members a copy of this book at no cost. The first time it will be available is at our annual Brunch with Us on Sunday, October 5, at both campuses. Below are some thoughts from Pastor Johnson about his experience writing this history.

## **WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING THING YOU LEARNED WHILE WRITING THE BOOK?**

Probably the most interesting thing about Mount Olivet is the "steadiness" of the congregation. No matter what is happening in the culture, Mount Olivet's mission does not change. While it innovates and dreams, in most respects, Mount Olivet remains remarkably unchanged. It keeps its focus on the mission. As such, Mount Olivet has never been through major strife in the congregation. Focusing on the gospel keeps people unified.

## **WAS THERE ANYTHING YOU DISCOVERED DURING YOUR RESEARCH THAT TOOK YOU COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE?**

Let me answer by documenting the research I did in writing the book. First of all, I built on the earlier history written by Wilfred Bockleman for the 75th anniversary. I perused every issue of the Messenger and its predecessor newsletters from 1995-2003. I read every Senior and Associate Pastor's annual report, and I interviewed 58 persons for their perspectives. This gave me a sense of how important this church is in the lives of people. I loved digging into this history!

While not a complete surprise, I would say that Mount Olivet keeps advancing despite leadership changes. The modern Mount Olivet was founded by a charismatic pastor who built the congregation into the largest Lutheran church in America, and every senior pastor following kept the church growing. Even during the times of interim senior pastors, Mount Olivet grew and, with the strong encouragement of lay leadership, pushed ahead with major building programs. During COVID, Mount Olivet found new ways to reach people and grew in numbers.

The gospel is preached with an emphasis on God's love, a love that impels us to reach out to the neighbor. The number of people Mount Olivet helps and blesses (members and non-members) is impressive. It begins in and through the many congregational programs and spreads outward through our affiliates and into the community in profound ways. The book documents this in some detail.

## **IF SOMEONE FROM OUTSIDE THE CONGREGATION ASKED YOU TO DESCRIBE WHAT MAKES MOUNT OLIVET DISTINCT, WHAT WOULD YOU SHARE?**

I would talk about how personal this large church is. The people are warm and welcoming. In the words of one of our former pastors, "Mount Olivet is the biggest little church there is." You can get lost at Mount Olivet, but you can also know and be known as the opportunities for involvement are unlimited. Volunteers make this church hum and, as they do so, they find joy in their service. I was so impressed by the volunteers that I dedicated the book to them. They love their church!

## **AFTER WRITING THIS HISTORY, IS THERE ANY ONE THING THAT YOU WOULD LIKE EVERY MOUNT OLIVET MEMBER TO KNOW ABOUT THEIR CONGREGATION?**

I always knew that Mount Olivet was a great church, but I did not know the depth and breadth of this congregation until I was called as the Interim Senior Pastor. It is a total program of excellence including worship, music and musical training, with great congregational care, adult education, and the large investment Mount Olivet makes in its children and youth, including the beloved Cathedral of the Pines Camp. I would also cite our significant care for children and adults with disabilities, our meal assistance programs, and support for community services. The organization of the church is impressive, but even more impressive is the strength of relationships being built every day. I would hope that every member would realize that this church is *for you* and will be there *for you* in every stage of your life, in the joys and in the sorrows. This church and its pastors and staff will be there *for you*. This church will help you live your best life. You can count on it.





## LIFE & GROWTH

**AUG 15 - SEP 16**

### BAPTISMS

**Alex Kate Adophson Hime**

*daughter of Kate and Robert*

**Ryan Robert Adophson Hime**

*son of Kate and Robert*

**Emerson Rae Behnke**

*daughter of Casey and Andrew*

**Edward Frederick Cristan**

*son of Alex and Stewart*

**Molly Jean Graves**

*daughter of Maren and Mike*

**Mia Starr Hoffmann**

*daughter of Amie and Ben*

**Mason James Hughes**

*son of Christina and Brian*

**Sophie Elisabeth Huinker**

*daughter of Taylor and Dane*

**Minnie Jo Keir**

*daughter of Mande and Sean*

**Nova Jean Keir**

*daughter of Mande and Sean*

**Aldous Mandell Kloster**

*son of Devin and Wes*

**Bridget Elise Lied**

*daughter of Emily and Kevin*

**Finley Nelson Meehan**

*son of Kirsten and Kevin*

**Wynn Aspara Elizabeth Prak**

*daughter of Nicole and Song*

**Jamie Joyce Regan**

*daughter of Abby and Marc*

**Gia Kristine Smith**

*daughter of Frances and Benjamin*

**Alexa Ruth Soule**

*daughter of Lori and Kevin*

**Carson Robert Soule**

*son of Lori and Kevin*

**Madelyn Signe Stratmoen**

*daughter of Kathleen and Jason*

### WEDDINGS

**Kayla Fleming & Blake Ekblad**

**Molly Maiwurm & Samuel Irvin**

**Rachel Barrett & Luke Snyder**

### DEATHS

**Michael J. Clark**

**Kathryn M. Cunningham**

**Robert M. Grover**

**Fletcher A. Merkel**

**Jerry A. Wronski**

## DEVOTION

Do you ever forget stuff? The other day I couldn't find my keys. I searched and searched and searched. Do you know where they were? The last place I set them. A few years back my brother, Paul, informed me of a condition he called "Threshold Condition." He explained it this way. When you walk from one room through the threshold of a door to another, the threshold wipes your hard drive, the one between your ears, clean, and you forget why you went into the room in the first place.

Sometimes we forget things. It's safe to say we all need reminders. One of the things I love about worship is that I'm reminded of God's love for us through our Savior Jesus Christ.

One of our common characteristics as humans is ingratitude. We tend to forget much more quickly the good others have done for us than the bad others have done to us. Formal worship encourages us to lay all our burdens down at the foot of the cross. The Lord forgives and then forgets.

We've even been known to forget some of what God tells us. **"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you: I have called you by name you are mine."** (Isaiah 43:1). We need reminders that the Lord has, **"inscribed us on the palm of His hands"** (Isaiah 49:16), that **"nothing will separate us from the love of God which is ours in Christ Jesus."** And as Jesus says so beautifully, **"I am with you always, to the end of the age."** (Matthew 28:20).

Regular worship refreshes our hearts, gives us strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. See you in church. And oh ya... another thing I love about worship, I get to see you.

— PASTOR KALLAND



## LUTEFISK VOLUNTEERS

This year, Mount Olivet is hosting its 95th Annual Lutfisk Dinner that is sponsored by MOCW! Each year, this dinner hosts more than 1,400 people. What makes this dinner so special is the many hands that help put the meal together — and we need your help! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Heather Goudy, Lutfisk Chair and MOCW President, at [heathergoudy@hotmail.com](mailto:heathergoudy@hotmail.com) with the times and job you'd like to help with.

### AVAILABLE SHIFTS

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 1:** 12noon Scooping Cookie Dough

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2:** 12noon Rolling Meatballs & Scooping Cookie Dough

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3:** 12noon Rolling Meatballs

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4:** 9am Making Rutabagas

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5:** 9am Table Setting and Lefse Rolling, 1pm Cooking Lutfisk, 2:30-5pm, 5-7pm, or 2:30-7pm Server/Busser, Buffet Servers, Plate Scrapers, and Coffee/Water Attendants

# Called for GOOD

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who have made your giving plan and/or pledge for Mount Olivet and its ministries for 2026! We had a wonderful Stewardship season thanks to countless volunteers and all who participated. Thank you!

**REMINDER!** If you haven't yet done so, please take time today to make your 2026 pledge to Mount Olivet and its ministries and/or make a giving plan, e.g. set up scheduled giving. ALL members and gifts of ALL sizes are important and needed! Thank you!



## WAYS TO PLEDGE & GIVE



### 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
- 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.



### 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!**



# THOUGHTFUL GIVING

Mount Olivet ministries are more than just programs, they foster relationships, experiences, and opportunities to learn that help us individually and collectively respond to God's call. This *Messenger* is filled to the brim with upcoming worship, outreach, education, service events, and programs—and these opportunities strengthen and prepare us for life in God's world. It couldn't happen without everyone's support. Whether you're giving for the first time or increasing your pledge, your gifts help us do more, reach further, and serve deeper. Together, we can nurture faith that lasts a lifetime. Together, we can care for one another and our neighbors. Thank you!

## ANNUAL BUDGET: MINISTRY AREAS

The *Annual Budget: Ministry Areas* visual is a breakdown of our overall 2025 revenue budget (\$11,785,148) in seven ministry areas.

*What ministries at Mount Olivet impact you or others?*

*How much are these ministries worth to you?*

12%	<b>Preach and Teach the Word</b> Sunday Sermons, Living the Message, The Gospel Unplugged, Sunday School
17%	<b>Invest in Our Youth</b> Cathedral of the Pines Camp, Summer Day Camps, 6th Grade Starter, Confirmation, Junior High Alive, Hi-League
12%	<b>Build Relationships</b> MOCW Circles & Events, Bible study small groups, Friends Forever, Hi-er League, Motorheads
15%	<b>Care for Our Facilities</b> Mpls and West Campuses, Conference & Retreat Center, Cathedral of the Pines Camp, Counseling Center
12%	<b>Walk with You in Important Moments of Life</b> Births and Baptisms, Hospital visits from cradle to grave, Weddings, Counseling Center
16%	<b>Inspire with Worship, Music, and the Arts</b> Sunday Worship, Christmas Concert, Choirs for all ages, School of Music & the Arts
16%	<b>Reach out to the Community in Love</b> Community Meals, Donation and Food Drives, Community Partners, Mount Olivet Preschool, Summer Day Camps

## MONTHLY GIFT BY HOUSEHOLD

The chart below lists the average monthly gift given to the General Fund in 2024 and how many households (above 25 years of age) gave that amount.

Please find yourself and then ask: *Does my giving reflect how I value my church and its impact? What other monthly financial commitments do you make: streaming services, internet, vacations, health club memberships, dinners out with family and friends? How do your gifts to Mount Olivet compare?*

AVERAGE MONTHLY GIFT	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS	% OF TOTAL
\$0	5,496	67.11%
\$0.01-\$50	1,113	13.59%
\$50-\$150	761	9.29%
\$150-\$300	406	4.96%
\$300-\$500	218	2.66%
\$500-\$1,000	124	1.51%
\$1,000-\$2,500	55	.67%
\$2,500 and Above	16	.20%
<b>TOTAL GIVING</b>	8,189	100%



# Do You Know... What “Protestant” Means?

The word “Protestant” comes from the sixteenth-century Reformation, as various theologians “protested” the theological and clerical abuses of the medieval Roman Catholic Church. Martin Luther was one of the first leaders of the Reformation and set the basic parameters for what became known as “Protestantism” with his four “sola”s. (“Sola” is Latin for “alone”).



*Sola gratia:* We are justified – that is, accepted and forgiven – by God’s grace alone, not because of anything we’ve done.

*Sola fide:* We live into this grace not by doing “good works” in order to earn or merit grace, but rather by faith alone; that is, simply by trusting that God loves us.

*Sola scriptura:* The Bible is the final norm for our faith and life, and therefore, we establish and judge our theological convictions and practices by Scripture alone, not by church tradition.

*Solus Christus:* The only source of salvation is Jesus Christ, not our good works nor the authority of the church.

These four convictions guided the Reformation and remain the hallmark of churches that call themselves Protestant, including Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, and more.

Interestingly, while Luther started the (Protestant) Reformation, there is some debate about whether Lutherans are truly “Protestant.” Why? Because later theologians including John Calvin and the traditions they led not only protested against perceived abuses of the medieval church, but they also intentionally broke away from Roman Catholicism. Luther, on the other hand, remained committed to reforming the Church, so while he protested – and protested mightily! – various ways he believed Roman Catholicism had strayed from biblical teaching, he believed his role was to reform and correct, not to establish a new church. Similarly, while he condemned various theologians, priests, bishops, and the Pope, he believed the Church was larger than any fallible humans in these different roles. For this reason, he never formally broke away from the Church.

So, what do you think? Do the four “solas” make sense to you? How do you see them shaping our life and worship at Mount Olivet? And do you think we’re Protestant, or just Lutheran? Luther himself wished that we would all call ourselves just “Christian.”

As for me, I think Luther is right. While it is ultimately fine to identify with Protestants (or not), what is most important is that we continue to keep *faith* in God’s grace as embodied in *Christ* and revealed in *Scripture*. In other words, as long as we hold onto those four solas!

PASTOR LOSE

## NEW MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES

### NEW MEMBER LUNCHEONS

Sunday, October 26,  
12noon-1:30pm, Mpls  
Campus

Sunday, November 2,  
12noon-1:30pm, West  
Campus

Sunday, November 9,  
12noon-1:30pm, Mpls  
Campus

Join us to find out what it means to be a member of Mount Olivet! Meet the pastors, staff, members of Board of Life and Growth, and connect with other new members. Brunch will be served, and childcare is available for infants – 5 yrs.

### NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Sunday, November 16, Mpls  
& West Campuses

New members will be recognized during worship services.

If you have questions about membership, please contact Katie Lose at 612.767.2287 or [klose@mtolivet.org](mailto:klose@mtolivet.org).





## Minneapolis Crisis Nursery

For more than 40 years, the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery has been committed to ending child abuse and neglect and creating strong, healthy families. In addition to monetary donations, the Nursery thrives through the volunteer efforts of local churches and neighbors. Mount Olivet is partnering with the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery to cook meals for the little ones staying at the facility through the nursery's Cook for Kids program. 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 next three meals: **Tuesday, October 7, 11am-1pm, Tuesday, November 18, 4-6pm, or Tuesday, December 16, 11am-1pm.** 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 [rfreeman@mtolivet.org](mailto:rfreeman@mtolivet.org)

## Interested in a Garden Club?

Do you have a green thumb—or would you like to develop one? We're exploring the idea of starting a Garden Club at the Minneapolis campus and we'd love to know who might be interested!

The purpose of the club would be to bring together individuals who are passionate (or even just curious!) about gardening and to work together on beautifying our church grounds. From planting flowers and maintaining beds, to brainstorming seasonal touches, this would be a hands-on way to care for God's creation and enhance the beauty of our worship space.

Whether you're an experienced gardener or just someone who enjoys spending time outdoors, all are welcome. Let's grow something beautiful—together!

Interested or have questions? Please contact Lisa Boss at [lboss@mtolivet.org](mailto:lboss@mtolivet.org) or 612.850.3848.

## HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY!

Prayer Shawl Ministry has provided prayers, support, and comfort to those in need for 20 years at Mount Olivet. Prayer Shawl Ministry has grown from its origination at the Minneapolis campus with a handful of women to a flourishing ministry at the Minneapolis and West campuses with monthly fellowship. There are options for all schedules with morning and evening fellowship at the Minneapolis Campus and early afternoon at the West Campus.

**MPLS CAMPUS:** 2nd Monday of each month at 10:30am or 6:30pm

**WEST CAMPUS:** 4th Tuesday of each month - 1:00pm

Congregational Care and Prayer Shawl Ministry leaders are **always** welcoming new members!

If you would like more information and/or are interested in joining,  
please contact:

Julie Goodman at [julieg@mtolivet.org](mailto:julieg@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2208 or

Stephanie McGinty at [smcginty@mtolivet.org](mailto:smcginty@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2209

# LIVING THE MESSAGE

## STORIES THAT SHAPE US

### 11 KINGS 22: KNOW YOUR STORY, KNOW YOURSELF

#### TAUGHT BY PASTOR LOSE

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

Discover the power of rediscovered stories! King Josiah's encounter with God's Word reignited Israel's identity and purpose. Like Josiah, we're invited to reclaim our story with God—one that shapes us, strengthens us, and equips us to live with hope and clarity in today's world. Join Pastor Lose for this first Living the Message presentation of the year.

### JOHN 11 – LAZARUS JUST LAID THERE

#### TAUGHT BY PASTOR DIXON

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

Lazarus was dead, well and truly dead. This story has no meaning otherwise. In fact, it's either comical or boring. If Lazarus was only partially dead, then all Jesus did was yell loudly and wake someone up. But we prefer that. Because if Lazarus was only partially dead, maybe we are only partially dead, too. That means we are partially alive! Partially capable of crawling out of that tomb ourselves. Partially in charge of our own destiny.

I love this story precisely because Lazarus was dead. I find it comforting. It is comforting to know that even if I am stone-cold dead, Jesus is so reliable, so trustworthy, so loving, that I am still safe in his care. There is no such thing as "too late" for Jesus. People often ask (or worry secretly in their hearts) about loved ones who maybe didn't sing in the church choir, who perhaps didn't "accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and savior." Perhaps we worry about ourselves, too. Maybe we haven't done those things sincerely enough, or faithfully enough, or just not...enough. This story squashes that anxiety. It is a dramatic demonstration of the power and reach of Jesus's grace. He will save whom he will save! Collaboration not required!

PASTOR DIXON

## 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

Come explore the Ten Commandments with Pastors Lose, Cieslik, Olson Popp, and Dixon taking a deep dive into these ancient words—not as rules, but as gifts of grace. Discover how they invite us into lives of freedom, joy, and faithful relationships with God and each other.

**OCTOBER 15/16:** *Your Neighbor's Best Life Now* with Pastor Lose

**OCTOBER 22/23:** *God, God's Name, and How to be Holy* with Pastor Cieslik

**OCTOBER 29/30:** *Parents, Murder, and Adultery, Oh My!* with Pastor Olson Popp

**NOVEMBER 5/6:** *Theft, Gossip, and Coveting, Oh My!* with Pastor Dixon

## MOUNT OLIVET BOOK DISCUSSIONS

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

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

Both held in the Mpls Campus Library

#### UPCOMING BOOKS:

**OCTOBER 14/ OCTOBER 8:** *March* by Geraldine Brooks

**NOVEMBER 11/12:** *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano

**DECEMBER 9/10:** *Table for Two* by Amos Towles

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ALL ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES OR TO REGISTER VISIT [MTOLIVET.ORG/EDUCATION](http://MTOLIVET.ORG/EDUCATION) OR CONTACT KATIE STEVENSON AT [KATIES@MTOLIVET.ORG](mailto:KATIES@MTOLIVET.ORG) OR 612.767.2232.**



## VISIT THE MOUNT OLIVET PUMPKIN PATCH!

**OPEN OCTOBER 13-30 (OR UNTIL WE RUN OUT)**

**WEEKDAYS: 3-6PM**

**WEEKENDS 10AM-6PM**

**EACH YEAR WE HAVE A PUMPKIN PATCH OVER AT THE 1700 CHAPEL. PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS THE HIGH SCHOOL CATHEDRAL CHOIR. VISIT US AND HAVE SOME FALL FUN IN TOWN!**

## MOUNT OLIVET PLAY DAYS

**Friday, October 31, West  
Campus: Halloween Party**

Make the most of school release days with Mount Olivet Play Days—a new program designed just for Kindergarten through 5th-grade students! Each day will feature a field trip, guest experience, or themed on-campus fun. We'll do arts and crafts, play games, and engage in activities with CFM staff. Check your school calendars, invite a few friends, and register online!



## PARTY AT THE PATCH

**Saturday, October 25, 10am-  
12noon, 1700 Parking Lot**

It's a party and you're invited!  
Join us at the Pumpkin Patch  
for a morning of fun – treats, a  
bounce house, and more!







## CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER

SARAH STRASEN, *Therapist, Mount Olivet Counseling Center*

While I work with people facing an array of difficult circumstances, one life experience has become an area of focus for me: working with family caregivers, individuals who provide for the needs of a loved one suffering from illness, disability, or the effects of aging.

How does one become a family caregiver? There is no job application, no list of qualifications. For most people in the role of “caregiver,” this job was never part of Plan A, just as becoming a “care receiver” is not in anyone’s plans. We do not “opt in” to illness or disability, or old age for that matter, any more than we can “opt out.” Usually those serving as caregivers did not choose this work to satisfy a personal need or as an outlet for their excess nobleness. They were compelled by circumstance and did what needed to be done. A child was born with a disability. A spouse had a stroke. A parent developed dementia. And here they are.

Now that they find themselves here, they remain not superheroes or saints but regular human beings. I say this not to minimize their extraordinary qualities (which certainly exist) but to highlight a reality: human beings have limits. We cannot suppress our own needs without repercussions. And the caregiving experience brings about all sorts of emotions: grief, fear, apathy, exhaustion, numbness and more. We question our own decisions. Have I done enough? Have I done too much? Have I done what my partner would have wanted? What would my loved one think? We burn out. Sometimes it seems we have a limitless capacity for despair.

But we need not face these hardships alone. Whether giving or receiving care, we retain a need for connection, a need to be witnessed and understood. This need is at the core of the Caregiver Support Group at Mount Olivet. Initiated by requests from parishioners and counseling center clients, the group was formed

as a space for mutual support for people serving in a caregiver role. No matter the complexity of the situation, we can sit alongside a person in their anger, confusion, guilt, and sorrow. Some days, this act of presence feels like not nearly enough. We wish we could give someone an overhaul, a do-over. Yet nevertheless, relationships offer healing.

These relationships form concentric circles. A family member cares for a loved one, and a community cares for a family. If you are not yourself a caregiver, you are still somewhere in the circle. If you know someone in this situation, reach out, even (or especially) if you haven’t seen the person lately. Offer concrete and specific support. Rather than saying, “let me know if there’s anything I can do,” try offering to bring a meal, rake the leaves, or run errands. Better yet, listen without offering advice unless advice is requested. Advocate for caregiver-friendly employee policies, like flexible PTO, as many caregivers have other jobs. Recognize that giving or receiving care will likely be part of everyone’s lives at some point if it isn’t already. Have conversations within your own family about older members’ long-term wishes for living situations and medical care. Some of the problems faced in life are not solvable, but we can all do something to lighten the burdens of those around us.

After all, no one needs professional training to offer their presence. If there is any meaning in the act of caring for another person, perhaps it is this – that there is something sacred about joining someone in the fullness of their experience, in their joy and in their suffering. In this suffering, we see our common humanity. Many days, we would rather be superhuman, but no one gave us that option. We will have to content ourselves with these human bodies, ever-changing yet somehow still capable of love.





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

October is National Estate Planning Awareness Month—a meaningful time to reflect on how we can faithfully plan for the future. Estate planning is more than a legal responsibility; it's an act of love and stewardship, aligning our resources with our values and care for others. All too often, we postpone important conversations about our wishes and legacy. Planning ahead ensures that our values are honored and our loved ones are protected. That's why the Mount Olivet Development Department warmly invites you to attend one of our upcoming Estate Planning Workshops. Whether you're just beginning or reviewing an existing plan, these sessions offer practical and spiritual insight to help you take the next step.

## 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.

## 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, 6-7:30pm, West Campus (Refreshments at 5:45pm)**

**Wednesday, October 15, 10-11:30am, Mpls Campus (Refreshments at 9:45am)**

## TO REGISTER

Use the QR codes below, call 612.767.2214, or email [development@mtolivet.org](mailto:development@mtolivet.org).

Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged.

**OCTOBER 14  
WEST CAMPUS**



**OCTOBER 15  
MPLS CAMPUS**



# FEATURED EVENTS

## 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. Brunch items may include: egg sandwiches and crepes from La Belle Crepe. No registration necessary. Hope to see you there!



## 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.



## FRIENDS FOREVER GATHERINGS IN 2025

If you're looking to meet new friends and get involved with a great group of Mount Olivet people, please join us at a Friends Forever event! We're mostly 60+ and love having fun and serving our church! If you'd like to register or receive information about upcoming events, please contact our coordinator, Julie Reece at [julier@mtolivet.org](mailto:julier@mtolivet.org) 612.926.2260.



### AUTUMN BRUNCH

Sunday, October 12, 12noon, Oak Ridge Country Club

Warm caramel rolls, eggs, bacon, sausage, hashbrowns, fresh fruit, berries and fellowship!

### FALL DINNER

Tuesday, November 11, 5:30pm, Mpls Campus

Enjoy a yummy traditional turkey dinner complete with all the fixings!

### SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Tuesday, December 2, 6:30 pm, West Campus

Join us for a beautiful, serene, worship service followed by coffee, cookies and conversation!

## COFFEE AND CONVERSATION: LIVE SAFELY AND INDEPENDENTLY AT HOME

Tuesday, October 14, 10-11:30am, Mpls Campus

Join us for Coffee and Conversation, with Home at Home Co-Founders, Don Macpherson and Libby Stanton with a presentation on the topic of living safely and independently at your home through personalized assessments and safety modifications. Working closely with senior homeowners and their families, the company creates customized safety plans that maintain independence and provide peace of mind. Register online at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) or by contacting Nancy Nelson [nnelson@mtolivet.org](mailto:nnelson@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2288.





# UPCOMING AT MOUNT OLIVET

## OCTOBER 2025

**MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION AT MTOLIVET.ORG**

### **DROP-IN CHOIR**

Rehearsal: Thursday, October 2, 7-8pm, West Campus; Singing: Sunday, October 5, 10 & 11am, West Campus

This is a fun, low-risk opportunity for anyone who loves to sing. You will be joined by the Sanctuary Choir and Director, Brandon Berger.

### **4TH GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION**

Sunday, October 5, 11am, Mpls Campus

We invite fourth graders and their parents to attend an informational class and Bible Presentation. Please register online.

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

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

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.

### **FLYING SOLO: MISSION MANOR ESCAPE ROOM**

Saturday, October 11, 4pm, Escape Room and Brewery, \$40

Let's try our hands at a couple escape rooms in Mission Manor before retiring to Headflyer Brewery upstairs. Options to add a third escape room are available if early numbers show a lot of interest. Games and conversations to be had at the brewery. Guests are welcome to bring their own snacks, order out, or perhaps a food truck will show up. Non-alcoholic beverages are also available.

### **CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES CAMP 11 O'CLOCK AT 4 O'CLOCK FOR CURRENT 3RD, 4TH, & 5TH GRADERS**

Sunday, October 12, 4-5pm, Mpls Campus

Are you missing Cathedral of the Pines Camp? Do you want to reconnect with your camp friends? Join us for a large group time and then break out into "11 o'clock" activities like a nature walk, crafts, playing in the gym, and more! During this time, parents are invited to stay at church for fellowship time and a Bible study. Questions? Please contact Gail Breen at [gbreen@mtolivet.org](mailto:gbreen@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2289.

### **CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER DONOR DINNER**

Sunday, October 12, 5-7pm, Conference & Retreat Center

Anyone who has given time, talents, or financial gifts to MOCRC over the last year is invited to a celebratory, elevated dinner. At this special event, you'll hear about our amazing accomplishments in 2025 and our greatest needs for 2026, all while enjoying a delicious meal. As gratitude for your generosity, there is no cost, but please register in advance.

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

Tuesday, October 21, 12noon, Mpls Campus

Join us for lunch and to hear from Pastor Dennis Johnson the author of "A Future with Hope", a history of the past 25 years of Mount Olivet. Register by October 17. If you have questions, please contact Tricia Asuncion at 612.767.2218 or [tasuncion@mtolivet.org](mailto:tasuncion@mtolivet.org).

### **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.

### **MOCRC FALL VOLUNTEER DAY**

Saturday, October 25, 9am-3pm, Conference & Retreat Center

Help us ready the Conference & Retreat Center grounds for the winter season. Volunteers will help with seasonal projects and can enjoy a delicious meal from our kitchen and delight in any of our indoor and outdoor amenities.

### **PAINT NIGHT WITH A FRIEND: VAN GOGH'S STARRY NIGHT - ESPECIALLY FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL AGE**

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

Get creative with friends as you paint your own version of Van Gogh's iconic Starry Night! Using a 16x20-inch canvas, you'll follow step-by-step instructions to bring the masterpiece to life—or put your own twist on it for a one-of-a-kind creation.

### **CRAFT AWAY**

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

It's not too late to sign up for this annual crafting weekend! Registration closes when all overnight accommodations are reserved.



MOUNT OLIVET  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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# PARTY AT THE PATCH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25  
10AM-12NOON  
MPLS CAMPUS

