

NOVEMBER 2025

BELIEVING, BELONGING, BECOMING

MOUNT OLIVET
MESSENGER



mtolivet.org

JOIN US

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

NOVEMBER 2

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
**EXODUS: THE ROAD TO
FREEDOM**

Passover

Exodus 12:1-14

M 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Lose

MUSIC Cathedral &
Sanctuary Choirs

W 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Olson Popp

MUSIC Cathedral &
Sanctuary Choirs

NOVEMBER 9

**EXODUS: THE ROAD TO
FREEDOM**

Crossing the Red Sea

Exodus 14:5-16, 21-22

M 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Kalland

MUSIC Cathedral &
Sanctuary Choirs

W 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Hammersten

MUSIC Cathedral &
Sanctuary Choirs

NOVEMBER 16

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY
**EXODUS: THE ROAD TO
FREEDOM**

Manna from Heaven

Exodus 16:1-15

M 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Grangaard

MUSIC Chapel & Sanctuary
Choirs

W 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Freeman

MUSIC Combined Cathedral
Choirs & Sanctuary
Choir

FIRST COMMUNION

W 1pm

NOVEMBER 23

**EXODUS: THE ROAD TO
FREEDOM**

The 10 Commandments

Exodus 20:1-17

M 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Olson Popp

MUSIC Cathedral &
Sanctuary Choirs

W 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Cieslik

MUSIC Cathedral Choir &
Claire Loudon, violin

FIRST COMMUNION

M 1pm

NOVEMBER 26

THANKSGIVING EVE

M 6pm

SERMON Pastor Cieslik

MUSIC Cathedral & Sanctuary
Choirs

W 6pm

SERMON Pastor Dixon

MUSIC Cathedral & Sanctuary
Choirs

NOVEMBER 30

**THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE
DARKNESS**

In the Beginning...

John 1:1-5

M 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Cieslik

MUSIC Cathedral & Sanctuary
Choirs

W 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Freeman

MUSIC Cathedral & Sanctuary
Choirs

PHOTO CAPTION

Savanna Portage State Park in
McGregor, MN

Called to Be Salt and Light

And Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” – Matthew 5:13-16

Salt and light. These may be two of the better-known images from Scripture. Jesus is sharing with his disciples what they are called to be. Salt preserves and purifies, light illumines and reveals. Together, they are essential for a whole and healthy life. I believe that Jesus continues to call his disciples to be salt and light, preserving, protecting, and enhancing life for ourselves and, especially, for those around us.

You might not be surprised that this brings me back to Luther’s understanding of vocation! (From the Latin *vocare*, to call.) This fall, we have focused primarily on our individual callings – the roles we get to play as parent or child, at work and in our volunteering, as citizens and neighbors. God calls each of us to look out for our neighbor and to make the world more trustworthy wherever we find ourselves.

God also calls us as a congregation, and Mount Olivet has a wonderful tradition of responding to our neighbors’ needs in a variety of ways and especially through our Affiliated Ministries: Rolling Acres, Mount Olivet Home and Careview Home, Day Services, our Counseling Center, the Conference & Retreat Center, Cathedral of the Pines Camp, and the School of Music & the Arts. Each of these was started at a particular time to respond to a particular need. (This is the hope behind the idea to transform the 1700 Chapel into a community gathering place as well.)

Of late, I’ve been thinking about how else we can be “salt and light” in our community at this time and place. One thing that keeps coming to mind is by offering an alternative to the prevailing divisive political discourse and landscape by continuing to be a place where people across the political spectrum come together

unified in a desire to worship our Lord and serve our neighbor. I say “continuing” because I believe this is one of the key elements of our heritage. While other congregations got caught up in theological debates or “worship wars,” during a time when congregations moved toward and identified with one political ideology or another, Pastors Reuben and Paul Youngdahl kept the focus of Mount Olivet on proclaiming the good news of Jesus, fostering genuine Christian relationships of care, and taking care of those around us.

At this politically divisive moment in history, the task of speaking to the concrete realities and issues of our day without being pulled into partisan loyalties and culture wars can feel daunting. But I think it has never been more important and we are committed to continuing to honor our tradition of being a place of salt and light... for everyone!

Toward that end, I want to share several commitments your pastors strive to honor. First, we are committed to lifting up and focusing on the good news of God’s love for all. In our preaching, teaching, across the board. Second, and similarly, we are committed to looking at everything through the lens of the Gospel – that is, how do we believe God’s love for us and all the world informs any opportunity or challenge or issue that may be in front of us? Third, we pastors are also people and citizens and have our own views on the issues of the day and, like you, we strive to understand and address them through our faith. At the same time, in our role as pastors, we are committed to preaching, teaching, and leading in a way that makes everyone feel a part of Mount Olivet and does not give anyone reason to wonder whether they and their perspectives are welcome. We are not perfect people, so we will not do this perfectly. But we will try and, when we fall short, we will confess with you our sins and receive with you God’s forgiveness.

We are called to be salt and light. At times, that can be hard. At others, that can be wonderful. At all times, it is rewarding. Faithfulness always is. Thank you for your commitment to this vision, your prayers for our church, your generosity of spirit, and your commitment to helping us answer God’s call.

See you in Church!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR

Called for **GOOD**

This fall, we've journeyed through stories of being called—Abraham stepping into the unknown, Esther rising to the moment, and Peter leaving his nets. Each of these stories reminds us: we are *called for good*—to live generously, faithfully, and purposefully.

As we look ahead to 2026, we invite you to respond to that call by making your financial commitment to the church. Your pledge or giving plan is more than a number—it's a reflection of what you value and your partnership in the good God is doing through our congregation and its ministries.

Thank you to all who have already pledged! Your generosity fuels ministry, worship, outreach, and care. If you haven't yet, now is a great time to take that step. Whether you give weekly, monthly, or annually, your commitment helps us plan boldly and serve well.

Let's continue walking and working together as a family of faith, trusting that the God who calls us also equips us—for good.

KATIE STEVENSON, *Director of Stewardship*

UPDATE ON SECURITY MEASURES AT MOUNT OLIVET

To ensure that Mount Olivet remains a safe environment for all members, visitors, preschool families and staff, we have reviewed current security practices at both campuses. The current security practices at the West Campus continue to be sufficient. At Minneapolis, we are making the following changes regarding our day-to-day operations, effective November 1.

SUNDAY MORNINGS:

All doors will remain open with the exception of door #7 (facing 50th St, near the James Ave. corner), which will always be locked.

In addition to the police directing traffic in the street between services, they will patrol the perimeter of the building during services.

We will continue to have plain clothed security officers patrolling on the inside of the building all morning.

DAILY:

Door #3 (on the southwest corner of the building, outside our reception area) will be the single door open and the primary entrance and exit during business hours.

We will open other doors when we have funerals, weddings, and all-congregational events, providing access to the doors off the parking lot.

When doors are locked, we will have clear signage directing people to the proper door.

We are fortunate to have a long-term partnership with the Minneapolis Police who have assisted us in reviewing our security measures and developing these plans, and their presence directing traffic brings us another layer of security. Additionally, we have recently installed 53 cameras both inside and outside our facility in Minneapolis. We will continue to review our processes and appreciate your patience and flexibility as we strive to ensure Mount Olivet remains a safe and inviting place.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who have made your giving plan and/or pledge for Mount Olivet and its ministries for 2026!

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

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 available at church
- Go online to mtolivet.org/stewardship

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 under GIVING

Questions? Contact Tricia Lerohl-Morgan, Coordinator of Financial Records, at 612.767.2255 or tricial@mtolivet.org.



LIFE & GROWTH

SEP 17 - OCT 14

BAPTISMS

Charlotte Emelia Bentley
daughter of Tracy and Chris

Maggie June Bonnema
daughter of Barbara and Zack

Corbin Everett Cutshall
son of Alison and Matthew

Peggy Hanson

Linnea Signy Huepenbecker
daughter of Kirstin and Thomas

Connor Weldon Jacobs
son of Katherine and Brady

Kaia Mae Kelley
daughter of Mari and Eric

Millie Madeleine Means
daughter of Alyssa and Mitch

Parker Willow Menken
daughter of Emily and Jason

Leo Jay Mucklow
son of Emily and Timothy

Conrad Louis Schreier
son of Megan and Adam

WEDDINGS

Heidi Bach & Daniel DeHart

Emmalyn Elsen & Cooper Conklin

Kenna Gatzmer & David Biedron

Danielle Ungurian & Quinn Foerster

DEATHS

Jane A. Alderson

Philip Kromminga

Joan E. Morehouse

Shirley Oxley

Wesley E. Scott

Betty L. Wilson

DEVOTION

“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you.” —Philippians 1:3

Pastor Hammersten and I recently accompanied a group of 25 Mount Olivet women to the Camino de Santiago in Spain. We made our journey by foot from the town of Sarria to the Cathedral of St. James in Compostela. We took many steps - physically, spiritually, and with one another. With each step, new learnings emerged, new graces were received, and new gratitude was discovered.

One day, as I entered a city after walking 16 miles, I passed two people waiting for the bus. They kindly waved at me and said, “Hi!” Then, they quickly followed it with, “Thank you!” I smiled and wondered what they were thanking me for. And then I realized they were probably native Spanish speakers who simply wanted to connect with me in English. Two greetings they had likely heard more than any other were “hello” and “thank you.”

Then it dawned on me—greeting and gratitude are at the heart of what unites us all. They are the most consistent reminders of God’s love for us and the world.

The apostle Paul begins each of his letters to the early church with words of greeting and gratitude. In Philippians, he writes, “I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you.”

In November, we celebrate Thanksgiving, but as followers of Christ, we recognize gratitude is central to our everyday existence. May you know that we pastors are grateful for you and think of you with joy in our prayers. Thanks for being part of Mount Olivet, and for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ so clearly.

Dear God, We thank you for the gift of one another. Help us to greet one another with grace and gratitude in all we do. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

— PASTOR FREEMAN



NEW MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES

NEW MEMBER LUNCHEONS

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 through 5-year-olds.

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.

Happy Thanksgiving

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26
6PM, MPLS & WEST CAMPUSES**

Join us for a heartwarming Thanksgiving Eve service at the Mpls and West Campuses. Come and enjoy beautiful music from the current Cathedral Choir, college-aged Cathedral Choir alumni, and Sanctuary Choir as we all lift our voices together in hymns of gratitude. Our high school students will share reflections on thankfulness, offering us a chance to reflect on the blessings in our lives. Stay afterward for cookies and fellowship in the Narthex as we gather in community to celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving. We look forward to sharing this special evening with you!

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16
8:30-11AM, BOTH CAMPUSES**

Support our ministry partners in their hunger relief initiatives by bringing non-perishable food items or monetary donations to either campus. Donations will benefit CES at the Mpls Campus and Bountiful Basket at the West Campus.

HI-ER LEAGUE (AGES 18-22) THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP & PIZZA

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26
6-8PM, MPLS CAMPUS, FREE**

We've missed you and you've missed each other! Come to Thanksgiving Eve Worship and stick around afterwards for a reunion (with a little pizza) in the Youth Center. Also, Dr. Claffin is inviting us to sing with the Cathedral Choir during worship at 6pm! If you would like to do that, please arrive at 5pm for rehearsal in the Rehearsal Hall and wear your good old blue Cathedral Choir shirt. We will be singing *I Will Give Thanks*.

FRIENDS FOREVER FALL DINNER

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11
5:30-7PM, MPLS CAMPUS, \$15**

Join Friends Forever for a traditional turkey dinner complete with all the fixings in the Minneapolis Campus Fellowship Hall. We will also be accepting donations for our Christmas for All program at this event. See a list of requested items on page 7.

HOLIDAY BUTTER BRAID SALES

Mount Olivet Homes Auxiliary will be selling Butter Braids for your Thanksgiving and Christmas enjoyment! Please see the details below to find out how you can get your Butter Braids for the holiday season. If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Hancer at lhancer@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2267.

THANKSGIVING BUTTER BRAID SALES

Butter Braid sales for Thanksgiving will take place on-site at the Holiday Boutique on Saturday, November 1, at the Mpls Campus and at the Holiday Market on Saturday, November 8, at the West Campus. Plan now to attend these festive holiday shops and purchase your Thanksgiving Butter Braids!

CHRISTMAS BUTTER BRAID SALES

Orders will be taken online November 1 through November 30. Order pick-up will take place on Sunday, December 14, from 9-11am at the campus you selected in your order.



Christmas For All



Gift Suggestions

ONLY NEW ITEMS ACCEPTED

GIFTS ARE NEEDED FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, AND ADULTS:

TEENS/ADULTS

Athletic/Work Socks
Arts & Crafts Kits
Blankets & Throws
Blowdryers
Curling Irons/Straighteners
Cosmetic Bags
Electric Razors
Hoodies (Sizes: M-XL)
Male & Female Hygiene Kits
Men's Hair Products

ELECTRONICS

Bluetooth Speakers
Chargers
Ear Buds
Headphones
Phone Accessories

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Bakeware
Batteries
Blankets or Throws
Cookware
Dish Sets
Small Appliances
Small Tool Kits
Towel Sets

ARTS & CRAFTS KITS

SPORTING GOODS

Basketballs
Baseballs
Footballs
Pickleball Paddles/Sets
Soccer Balls
Scooters
Sleds

TOYS

Baby Toys
Building Blocks
Cars/Trucks
Interactive Learning Toys
Lego Sets
Musical Toys
Plush Toys

GAMES

Electronic Games
Educational Games

\$20 GIFT CARDS TO LOCAL RETAILERS

Coffee Shops
Fast Food
Gas Stations
Online Retailers

SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

DONATIONS ACCEPTED:

Wednesday, November 12 through
Wednesday, December 3 at the Mpls & West
Campuses.

EVERYONE is invited to spread Christmas cheer and participate in our 7th Annual Christmas for All! We will be hosting a Christmas for All store for Love INC families at the West Campus. Individuals will be able to sign up and shop for their loved ones on Saturday, 12/6. In addition to the Love INC store, your Christmas for All donations will support Christmas stores at Redeemer Lutheran Church and Southside Family Nurturing Center.

GIVE A GIFT Donated gifts must be new, unwrapped and in the \$5-\$40 range. A list of suggested items can be found to the left.

DONATE If you wish, you may donate money to "Christmas for All" via your Realm account (give to the "Christmas for All" fund) or with checks made payable to Mount Olivet with "Christmas for All" in the memo line. Thank you!

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME Help is needed transporting gifts to the West Campus prior to the event and assisting at the event on 12/6. Visit mtolivet.org to sign up to volunteer. If you have questions, please contact Laurie Hancer at lhancer@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2267.



MINNEAPOLIS CAMPUS COURTYARD PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

We are excited to share photos of our recent courtyard playground project! The space is better equipped and more functional for daily outdoor use. A bonus: the preschool classes had front row seats from their rooms to watch the work crew bring diggers and other equipment into the space throughout the project.

Included in the project: new and expanded poured-in-place surfacing, the addition of a sandbox, and a border/mulch around the tree. Look for a new shed and refreshed landscaping this spring!



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:

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

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

JANUARY 13/14: *Frozen
River* by Ariel Lawhon

FEBRUARY 10/11: *Master
Slave Husband Wife* by Ilyon
Woo

MARCH 10/11: *Between
Two Kingdoms: A Memoir of
a Life Interrupted* by Suleika
Jaouad

APRIL 14/APRIL 8: *James*
by Percival Everett

MAY 12/13: *The Day the
World Came to Town* by Jim
DeFede

JUNE 9/10: *The Measure* by
Nikki Erlick

LIVING THE MESSAGE

STORIES THAT SHAPE US

JOHN 11 - LAZARUS JUST LAID THERE TAUGHT BY PASTOR DIXON

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

Lazarus was dead—truly dead. Otherwise, this story is either boring or absurd. If he were only partially dead, Jesus just woke someone up. That's easier to accept. If Lazarus was only halfway gone, maybe we are too—partially alive, capable of saving ourselves. But I love this story because Lazarus was fully dead. That's comforting. Even if I'm stone-cold dead, Jesus is trustworthy and loving enough to hold me. There's no "too late" for him. This story quiets our fears about loved ones—or ourselves—not being "Christian enough." Jesus's grace reaches beyond our efforts. He saves. Collaboration not required.

PASTOR DIXON

LIVING THE MESSAGE 2025-2026

STORIES
THAT
SHAPE
US

ESTHER 1, 4 - VASHTI AND ESTHER: FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS TAUGHT BY REV. DR. THERESA LATINI

Tuesday, December 2, 6:30-7:30pm, Mpls Campus Room 207

The Book of Esther introduces us to two ancient queens living under the shadow of a tyrannical empire. Queen Vashti, remembered briefly, refused to be humiliated and objectified by the king's drunken court. Her bold "no" cost her dearly, yet it was also a resounding "yes" to dignity and righteousness. Queen Esther, stepping into a precarious position after Vashti's disappearance, risked everything to save her people from destruction. With courage and wisdom, she spoke truth to power in a way that changed history for the Jewish people.

Usually, Esther is celebrated and Vashti forgotten. But when we hold their stories together, we see two women—different in their circumstances, yet both faithful—who show us what it means to live with integrity and courage.

In seasons when God seems hidden or absent, the witness of Vashti and Esther can become a beacon of light. Their stories have been that for me personally, encouraging me to say "no" when others' safety and dignity are at stake, and to risk a faithful "yes" when God calls me into difficult places. Together we will seek inspiration and encouragement from their stories in order to live with dignity, courage, and faith "for such a time as this."

REV. DR. THERESA LATINI

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.



WHERE GOD HEALS AND NATURE RENEWS

Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center is a sacred place set apart from daily demands—inviting stillness, solitude, and deep rest. Surrounded by woods, rolling prairie, lake, and marsh, guests are immersed in nature’s restorative rhythms. Here, time slows, the woods breathe, and healing happens: a quiet path, a marsh walk, a pause at the outdoor chapel or labyrinth. In this place, community is built not by busyness but by listening, conversation, shared meals, and mutual care—preparing people and groups to live more faithfully in the world. Spiritually renewing, this is a place where one might come like Elijah—worn down by conflicts and struggles—to simply rest, eat, sleep, listen, and recover perspective.

Each year, we host over 7,500 people and 350 groups from churches, nonprofits, businesses, and families. Our signature Summer Midweeks continue as a beloved tradition: a Wednesday evening meal, nature talk, and worship led by Mount Olivet pastors. This past summer we saw our largest crowds in many years, gathered in a spirit of welcome beneath vibrant blooms and with the expansive view from the chapel down to Chub Lake. The worship music—soloists, pianist, cellist and more—lifted hearts, evoking awe and gratitude.

We’re delighted to offer Nature Education Days for K–8 students (experiencing gardens, our honeybees, the marsh ecology, composting, and pollinators); Outdoor Adventures Camp for middle schoolers and Nature Camp for children; and complimentary retreats for at-risk youth and families in need. Each of these furthers our calling: to sustain spiritual renewal, foster caring community, and send people back out refreshed to live out their vocations in daily life.

REV. DR. THERESA F. LATINI, *Executive Director of Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center*

GET INVOLVED AT THE CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER

There are many ways to plug into the ministry of the Conference & Retreat Center in the coming months:

DAY ADVENT JOURNEY

Tuesday, December 2

An annual day retreat to spiritually prepare for the season of Advent. Led by Pastor Lose, Pastor Grangaard, and Rev. Dr. Theresa Latini. This year’s theme “Light and Life for All People,” invites us to enter more deeply into the mystery of the Incarnation and prepare our hearts to welcome Christ, the Light shining in the darkness, this Advent season. Registration is now open.

WOMEN’S WEEKEND

January 23-25, 2026

An annual weekend retreat for all women. Led by Pastor Grangaard, Pastor Olson Popp, Rev. Dr. Theresa Latini, and Ms. Amy Stress, there will be opportunities for Bible study, prayer, conversation, walking in the woods, relaxing in the pool, whirlpool and sauna, and scheduling a massage. Registration opens December 1 at 8am.

PERSONAL RETREATS

The winter months offer the perfect opportunity for individuals to settle into the quiet and calm of these surroundings. Book an individual stay to experience rest, renewal, and refocus.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Find an opportunity that fits your interests and schedule, whether that’s helping in the kitchen, tending the grounds, or serving guests at the front desk.

Email GuestEngagement@mocrc.org today to inquire about how you might join us.



NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR DAY

Mount Olivet has a long, cherished history of working with various neighborhood partners through our Community Concern Ministry. Partnering with neighbors to create respectful and dignified relationships while fulfilling community needs puts faith in action and blesses all involved. To highlight some of our Community Concern partners and offer an in-depth look into how we, together, are making an impact, Mount Olivet will be hosting **Neighbor To Neighbor Day on Saturday, January 10**. Our day will start at the Minneapolis Campus with breakfast and devotions. We will then divide up and head into the community to learn about and work with our community partners. We are excited to highlight Pastor Scott's Inner-City Ministry, CES (Community Emergency Service), Lutheran Social Services, and Love INC (Love In the Name of Christ). Each has planned a meaningful service event to highlight their mission while inviting Mount Olivet to join in the fun. This day is family-friendly, and we would love people of all ages to join us as we put faith into action and learn about and connect with our neighbors! Registration details can be found at mtolivet.org. Register early to secure your spot in this great opportunity!



Additional ways to serve in the coming months:

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE: Sunday, November 16 at both campuses

COOK FOR KIDS AT MINNEAPOLIS CRISIS NURSERY: November 18, 4-6pm

CHRISTMAS FOR ALL STORE: Saturday, December 6, West Campus

Questions regarding these or any community service opportunities may be directed to Laurie Hancer at lhancer@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2267

LAURIE HANCER, *Coordinator of Service and Outreach*

MINNEAPOLIS CRISIS NURSERY

Tuesday, November 18, 4-6pm, OR

Tuesday, December 16, 11am-1pm

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. To sign up or learn more about this opportunity, please contact Laurie Hancer at lhancer@mtolivet.org, or Pastor Freeman at rfeeman@mtolivet.org.



FUN FOR FALL!



HI-LEAGUE EVENTS

BONFIRE AND HOOTENANNY

Sunday, November 2, 7-8pm, Mpls Campus

9-12th graders are encouraged to join us for a bonfire and hootenanny—just like we do at Cathedral of the Pines Camp! So pull out your favorite sweats and pump up your singing voices for this fun event!

CHURCH FRIENDS FRIENDSGIVING

Sunday, November 16, 7-8pm, Mpls & West Campuses

Come to church for a thanksgiving celebration with all your church friends!! Everyone is encouraged to bring something to share.



HI-LEAGUE SHAREGROUPS

Sharegroups are a great way to build our church community. Each Sharegroup will feature a large group speaker, small group time, devotions, and a snack! Sharegroups are a combined campus event that are hosted at the Mpls Campus

Sunday, November 9, 7-8:30pm, Mpls Campus

Sunday, November 23, 7-8:30pm, Mpls Campus

MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENTS

CHANCEL CHOIR GUSTAVUS RETREAT

Friday, November 7 through Saturday, November 8

This event is exclusive for Chancel Choir singers. Join the Music Staff and the Youth Staff for a fun overnight at Gustavus Adolphus College!

FALL FOOD DRIVE

Sunday, November 16, 8:30-11 am, Mpls & West Campuses

Middle schoolers will be volunteering for the Food Drive today! We will be collecting food and monetary donations during all worship services.



THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

Wednesday, November 26, 6pm, Mpls & West Campuses

Come and enjoy beautiful music from the current Cathedral Choir, college-aged Cathedral Choir alumni, and Sanctuary Choir as we all lift our voices together in hymns of gratitude. Our High School students will share reflections on thankfulness, offering us a chance to reflect on the blessings in our lives. Stay afterward for cookies and fellowship in the Narthex as we gather in community to celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving. We look forward to sharing this special evening with you!

ADVENT AT MOUNT OLIVET

POINSETTIA CHANCEL GARDEN

Order November 1 through December 7, \$35 per plant

During this special time of year, please consider honoring or remembering a loved one by purchasing a poinsettia to beautify our sanctuaries during the holiday season. The Poinsettia Chancel Garden is displayed from December 21 through December 28. A list of the donors and those remembered or honored will be included in the bulletin on Sunday, December 21. Minimum donation is \$35 per poinsettia. Order at mtolivet.org/poinsettia or by contacting Jody Barbee at 952.767.1501 or jbarbee@mtolivet.org.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

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

Tuesday, December 9, 6:30pm, Mpls Campus

This service features a time of healing and reflection with peaceful harp music, a vocal soloist and a time to light a candle in memory of your loved one. If you would like the first and last name of your loved one read during the service, please visit mtolivet.org to register or contact Julie Goodman at 612.767.2208 or julieg@mtolivet.org.

WINTER COMMUNION SERVICE & LUNCHEON

Saturday, December 6, 11am-1pm, Mpls Campus

Please join us for a worship service with Christmas readings, carols, and Holy Communion, followed by a festive lunch in Fellowship Hall. This service is designed for members and family who are often unable to come to church. To register, please contact Nancy Nelson at 612.767.2288 or nnelson@mtolivet.org. If transportation is needed, please let Nancy know.

MESSIAH SING-ALONG

Sunday, December 7, Rehearsal 3:15pm, Performance 4pm, Mpls Campus

Get ready for Mount Olivet's annual Messiah Sing-along! This festive December tradition brings the community together in a powerful celebration of music and Christmas joy. The chorus will perform uplifting choruses alongside our outstanding featured soloists performing some of the most cherished Christmas selections from *Messiah*. Register online to sing or play at mtolivet.org/events. If you have questions, contact Beverly Clafin at beverlyc@mtolivet.org. Don't miss out on this spectacular holiday event!

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Sunday, December 7, Gathering 3:30-5pm, 5pm Tree Lighting, Mpls Campus

Join us as we light the Mount Olivet Christmas Tree on 50th and James Ave in Mpls! We will gather around our tree, share a song, and light up our small corner of south Minneapolis with grateful anticipation of the Savior and light of the world. There will be music, treats, crafts, and even Santa and reindeer will be available for pictures!



MOCW HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE & HOLIDAY MARKET

Saturday, November 1, 9am-2pm, Mpls Campus & Saturday, November 8, 9am-2pm, West Campus

Join us for the MOCW Holiday Boutique and Holiday Market featuring fine art, crafts, pottery, jewelry, home decor, culinary gifts, “Dala House” kids-only shopping, and more!

95TH MOCW LUTEFISK DINNER

DINNER DETAILS

Friday, December 5, 3-7PM, Mpls Campus, \$25 adults, \$5 for kids 12 & under

Join us for the 95th Lutefisk Dinner. The all you can eat buffet includes: lutefisk, Swedish meatballs, rutabagas, boiled potatoes, pickled beets, and yes of course... butter or white sauce! **Advance ticket sales are requested at mtolivet.org starting November 1.**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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, Lutefisk Chair and MOCW President, at 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 and 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 lutefisk, 2:30-5pm, 5-7pm, or 2:30-7pm Server/Busser, Buffet Servers, Plate Scrapers, and Coffee/Water Attendants





UPCOMING AT MOUNT OLIVET

NOVEMBER 2025

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

CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES CAMP 11 O'CLOCK AT 4 O'CLOCK FOR CURRENT 6TH, 7TH, & 8TH GRADERS

Sunday, November 2, 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 or 612.767.2289.

FLYING SOLO: TOUR MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN ART

Sunday, November 9, 3-5pm, Museum of Russian Art, 5500 Stevens Ave So, \$14 (\$2 discount for 65+)

Join us for a private tour of The Museum of Russian Art with Flying Solo docent, Maggie Menk, from 3-3:45 pm followed by time to explore the museum and their gift shop afterwards. We'll follow up with a bite to eat at a restaurant nearby. Join us for this fun event!

WATERCOLOR & MIXED MEDIA ART

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

Explore the creative possibilities of watercolor combined with pencil and pen-and-ink! In this guided class, you'll learn to layer and blend these versatile materials to create a unique work of art. Step-by-step instruction makes it approachable for all skill levels—just bring your imagination!

FAMILY FIKA: CARNIVAL OF ANIMALS

Saturday, November 15, 10am, Mpls Campus, FREE

Step into a world where music paints pictures, and animals spring to life through sound and storytelling. This enchanting concert features Camille Saint-Saëns' beloved suite Carnival of the Animals, performed with live narration and a chamber ensemble. The short musical presentation is perfect for families, students, and classical music lovers alike. This performance promises a joyful celebration of music and the timeless bond between art and storytelling.

YOUNG IN HEART & FRIENDS LUNCHEON

Tuesday, November 18, 12noon, Mpls Campus, \$10

Join us for "Life in Jerusalem" with Pastor Grangaard, who will share stories from her family's time living in the Holy Land (2015-2019) through ELCA Global Service. Discover how the land itself tells a powerful story - what St. Jerome called the "5th Gospel." Register by November 14.

CAREER & CALLING VIRTUAL MEETING

Tuesday, November 18, 5:30-7pm, Teams Meeting

Join us for an online conversation as we network, learn, and grow together! Mount Olivet's Career & Calling ministry offers our members and friends an arena for nurturing our careers and supporting each other. We aim to grow professionally through networking, learning, and supporting each other as we balance work and life.

LOOKING AHEAD!

DAY ADVENT JOURNEY: LIGHT AND LIFE FOR ALL PEOPLE

Tuesday, December 2, 10am-3pm, Conference & Retreat Center, \$20

Step into the season of Advent with a day of prayer, reflection, and fellowship rooted in the beautiful prologue to John's Gospel. Structured like a hymn with four stanzas, the first chapter of John reveals Jesus as the eternal Word—the life and light for all creation. Led by Pastor Lose, Pastor Grangaard, and Rev. Dr. Theresa Latini, deeply explore the mystery of the Incarnation and prepare our hearts to welcome Christ.

CHALK PASTEL DRAWING

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

Dive into the expressive world of chalk pastels—an artist's medium known for its vibrant color and blendability. In this class, you'll learn foundational techniques such as layering, shading, and blending to create depth and texture. Through step-by-step instruction, you'll apply these skills to design a finished holiday-themed drawing while gaining confidence in using pastels as a fine art medium.



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THANKSGIVING

Eve Worship

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

6pm

MPLS Pastor Cieslik

WEST Pastor Dixon