

JANUARY 2026

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

JANUARY 4

EPIPHANY

ARRIVAL OF THE MAGI

Matthew 2:1-12

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

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

*During our Epiphany
worship service there will be a
procession of the Three Kings.*

JANUARY 11

JESUS CALLS HIS DISCIPLES

John 1:43-51

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

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

JANUARY 18

THE WEDDING AT CANA

John 2:1-11

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

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

JANUARY 25

JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE

John 2:13-25

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Lose
MUSIC Combined Cathedral
Choir & Sanctuary
Choir

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Dixon
MUSIC Sanctuary Choir

PRAYER LINE

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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL RESUME WEEKLY CLASSES ON
1/4 AT BOTH CAMPUSES.**

A New Year of Grace (Upon Grace!)

At this time of year, I have gotten into the habit of speaking not just about a “new year” but rather about “a new year of grace.” It’s a way to remind myself that all of the time we are given on this earth is a gift, a gift to be treasured, used, and shared. Nothing in this life is guaranteed – not life or joy or health. All are gifts of grace.

As we read through the introduction to John’s Gospel this past December, I realized I was selling this new year short. After describing Jesus as God’s eternal word that takes on our flesh and brings life and light to all, John then says, “From his fullness, we have all received grace upon grace.” Did you hear that? Not just grace, but *grace upon grace*. Grace multiplied. More grace than you can imagine. Grace upon grace.

In several of our stories from John’s Gospel this January, John shows us what that looks like in the life and ministry of Jesus. On January 11, for instance, John the Baptist sees Jesus and immediately declares, “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” The grace Jesus brings is so huge, so all-encompassing, that sin just doesn’t stand a chance. On January 18, we hear the story of the wedding at Cana, when Jesus turns water into wine (a sign of blessing in the ancient world). And not just wine, but the best wine, and not just a few precious bottles, but 150 gallons. Once again, blessing upon blessing; grace upon grace. And on January 25, we read the story of Jesus chasing the money changers out of the Temple. Why? Money changers were essential to enable faithful Jews to purchase animals for sacrifice. But because Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, there simply is no more need for sacrifice. Ever. Again. Grace upon grace.

I can’t think of a better way to start this new year of grace (upon grace!) than being reminded of God’s love for and acceptance of us and all people in and through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ! In light of this incredible promise, I want to offer an invitation and a question.

First, the invitation. Believe this is true: That Jesus – his life, ministry, death, and resurrection – demonstrate that God loves us and accepts us completely and unconditionally. Or, better: believe this is true for you. Sometimes we can accept the idea of love, acceptance, and forgiveness in general, but still struggle believing it applies to us. We know our shortcomings, failings, and insecurities so well we may have difficulty trusting that God doesn’t see us this way or judge us this way, but rather sees us as beloved children. Always. No matter what.

One way to anchor yourself in this promise is to start and end your day the way we lead our kids in starting every Confirmation class. By making the sign of the cross on our foreheads and saying, “I am a child of God. I am loved. I am not alone.” Try it. That tangible reminder twice a day will help. Another way to grow in your trust of God’s promises is to come to worship regularly so you can hear the good news of God’s love, acceptance, forgiveness, and grace in the singing, Scripture reading, and sermons!

Then, a question: what will you do differently this year because “from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace”? What risks will you take, knowing that whether you succeed or fail, God loves you? What standards will you set for how you let others treat you, believing that you are God’s beloved child and worthy of all good things? How will you treat others knowing that they, too, are God’s beloved children and similarly deserve to be treated with dignity and respect? How will you share God’s grace with others – family and friends to be sure, but also with people who are different from us, perhaps disagree with us, or believe differently from us, yet are still God’s children?

We will be reading the Gospel of John’s story about Jesus – a story that might be subtitled, “this is what grace upon grace looks like” – from now through May. So as we venture through this new year, let Jesus’ promise of love, acceptance, forgiveness, and grace fill your hearts, direct your lives, and embolden you to reach out to others with love.

See you in Church!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR



DO YOU KNOW WHAT “EPIPHANY” MEANS?

January 6 is the Festival of Epiphany and the start of a new season of the Church. (At Mount Olivet, we will celebrate the Epiphany on January 4, the closest Sunday to the 6th.) But did you ever wonder what’s going on with this day and season and why should we pay attention to it?

The Festival of Epiphany is often called “the festival of light.” Like Christmas, it celebrates the birth of Jesus, with a particular focus on Jesus as the light of the world. January 6th also ushers us into the season of Epiphany that runs all the way to Lent. In some ways, Epiphany is the mirror season to Advent. Whereas during the four weeks of Advent, we light more and more candles as the days grow shorter and darker, across the nearly two-month season of Epiphany there is a little more light each day, symbolizing how the light of Christ that was born at Christmas continues to grow and spread.

If you’re not that familiar with Epiphany, you’re not alone because, truthfully, this festival is not that big of a deal in most Protestant churches in Europe and North America. Christmas is the major winter festival celebrating Jesus’ birth, the day we sing songs and give gifts. But in Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches, especially in Latin America, Greece, and Russia, Epiphany is a very big deal. Various known as Twelfth Night (it falls 12 days after Christmas), the Feast of the Epiphany, and El Día de los Tres Reyes (Three Kings Day), January 6, rather than December 25, is the day that many Christians across the world will give each other gifts. Which makes sense, when you think about it, because church tradition holds that the magi arrived in Bethlehem on this very day to present the baby Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The word “Epiphany” comes from a Greek word that means “to reveal.” When you hear someone say, “I had an epiphany,” it usually refers to a new realization or idea that feels big enough to be called a revelation. Similarly, this season recognizes that the gift of grace we celebrate at Christmas – that God in Jesus takes on our lot and life – is too big to sink in immediately. Rather, it takes time for us to fully grasp God’s promises of love, forgiveness, and acceptance. So go ahead, revel in God’s grace across this season so that you might also have the “epiphany” that God loves you more than you can imagine!



LIFE & GROWTH

NOV 15 - DEC 13

BAPTISMS

Louis Backman

son of Greta and Daniel

Mia Mork Brown

daughter of Kayla and David

Nora Jean Henderscheid

daughter of Ellie and Ryan

Pearson Fanning Quick

son of Lucia and Trevor

Eden Jane Rengstorf

daughter of Nicole and Jacob

Amelia Marie Schendel

daughter of Amanda and Zachary

Shae Lillian Stadheim

daughter of Emily and Grant

Bjorn Harald Thompson

son of Betsy and Dylan

Alice Marguerite Thorson

daughter of Kathryn and James

Annika Fure Werdin

daughter of Greta and Charles

Noah Michael Wray

son of Sarah and Connor

WEDDINGS

Lana Hanson & John Witcraft

DEATHS

Gary L. Carlson

Twyla E. Gillies

Barbara A. Hoppenstedt

John E. Hoppenstedt

Joanne M. Jensen

Marilyn A. Johnson

Joan Moore

Douglas V. Petersen

Diane C. Schroder

DEVOTION

"Whoever is in Christ: new creation."

—2 Corinthians 5:17

The holidays have come to a close and the calendar has turned to a new year. Phew!

We've decked the halls, frosted the cookies, wrapped and opened the presents. The remnants of which are now back in storage, or on the curb.

As the seconds tick down on the year that was, we begin to look ahead to what's next.

New routines. New diets. New plans for a new you. Which sounds great...until new plans also end up kicked to the curb.

We jump onto the seesaw each time the calendar resets. But celebration and resolution are not a zero-sum game. We don't have to give up one for the other. We can enjoy all that life affords us – and live with intention.

I think that gets at what it means to be in Christ. "Whoever is in Christ: new creation." We are not called to be super human...but human. Ones who are set free with trust in their Creator. Ones who are called to enjoy what God has given – and to live with the meaning bestowed on us by our Creator. Happy New Year! God loves you. — **PASTOR GRANGAARD**



JANUARY COMMUNITY PARTNER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR DAY

Saturday, January 10, 9:30am-1pm, Mpls Campus

Join us for an all-congregation "faith in action" service opportunity. We'll have breakfast together, then head out to five partner organizations (Pastor Scott's Inner Ministry, Community Emergency Service, Lutheran Social Service, Love INC, and Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery) for a day of service. Let's get to know our neighbors and share God's love together! Sign up at mtolivet.org or contact Laurie Hancer at lhancer@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2267.

SERVE DINNER AT SIMPSON HOUSING:

Sunday, January 11, 2026, 5:30-8pm

COOK FOR KIDS AT GREATER MINNEAPOLIS CRISIS NURSERY:

Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 4-6pm

LOVE INC HYGIENE PACK COLLECTION AND DELIVERY

Ongoing at the Mpls & West Campuses

Donate soap, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, toothbrush/toothpaste, razors/shaving cream, feminine hygiene products, toilet paper, tissues

Please contact Laurie Hancer at lhancer@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2267 with questions.



MOUNT OLIVET GALA

Invest in Hope

Each year Mount Olivet Lutheran Church and its affiliates come together for a night of celebration and fundraising. Over 500 attendees participate in this special evening, learning more about the affiliate organizations, and supporting the life-changing work being done at each one. Your support will guarantee a successful evening filled with inspiration. We proudly direct 100% of the proceeds raised to these organizations, empowering them to continue providing exceptional service and care to over 15,000 individuals each year. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in our community!

HERE ARE SOME WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT THE MOUNT OLIVET GALA!

ATTEND THE EVENT

Thursday, May 7, 2026, Oak Ridge Country Club, \$40

Registration opens March 1

Contact: Laurie Hancer, Coordinator of Service & Volunteers,
at 612.767.2267 or lhancer@mtolivet.org.

MAKE A SILENT AUCTION DONATION

Accepting donations March 1-April 15

A few ideas: bottles of wine, restaurant gift cards, experiences such as sporting event tickets, overnight stays at hotels, cabins, or vacation homes.

Contact: Karen Beese, Mount Olivet Gala Chair,
at 612.747.1256 or karensbeese@gmail.com

BECOME A SPONSOR

Sponsorship levels available from \$1,000 to \$20,000

Sponsorship Goal for 2026: \$100,000

Contact: Tyler Hauser, Coordinator of Development,
at 612.767.2214 or thauser@mtolivet.org.

MAKE A DONATION

The Mount Olivet Gala Supports the following affiliates:

Cathedral of the Pines Camp

Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center

Mount Olivet Day Services

Mount Olivet Home and Mount Olivet Careview Home

Mount Olivet Rolling Acres



LIVING THE MESSAGE

STORIES THAT SHAPE US

GENESIS 1 & ISAIAH 40: "WHEN EVERYTHING IS LOST" - EXILE AND CREATION

TAUGHT BY PASTOR GRANGAARD

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

What do you hold onto when everything is lost? During Israel's exile—marked by violence and grief—the people clung to their identity and Creator. Genesis 1, "In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth," was preserved through oral tradition and written during this time of devastation. Its message is clear: when there was nothing, God made something. Even in exile, God is creating anew. From the beginning up to this moment, God is not finished. God will not give up on us. "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth" (Isaiah 40:28).

PASTOR GRANGAARD

GENESIS 50: "YOU MEANT IT FOR EVIL" - GOD'S SAVING WORK IN THE FACE OF SUFFERING

TAUGHT BY PASTOR CIESLIK

Tuesday, February 3, 6:30-7:30pm, Mpls Campus Room 207

Why do bad things happen to good people? I don't really know, and I have never really found a satisfying answer. But I love this story about Joseph and his brothers because it gives us a helpful, and more importantly, hopeful way to talk about what God is doing in the world while hard stuff is unfolding around us. Join us!

PASTOR CIESLIK

FAITH AND POLITICS

(NO, WE'RE NOT GOING TO TELL YOU HOW TO VOTE!)

Mpls Campus: Wednesdays, January 21 through February 11, 10:30-11:30am, Room 207

West Campus: Thursdays, January 22 through February 12, 10:30-11:30am, Rehearsal Hall

Series also available via videos filmed live at the Mpls presentation and sent out one week after each Mpls class date

Many would argue that faith and politics don't mix. Martin Luther would respectfully disagree. He believed strongly that God was at work through government to care for God's people and world. (In fact, Luther believed that God established government for just this reason!) Because of this, Luther believed that every Christian had a role to play in supporting governmental institutions by praying for our civic leaders; paying our taxes cheerfully; and holding government officials accountable for using those taxes efficiently and to help God's children flourish, just to name a few.

At the same time, Luther was very suspicious of religious leaders who wanted to exercise political power and of secular leadership who tried to influence religion or use religion to justify their policies. This separation of church and state – or, more accurately, this "distinction of responsibilities" among the church and the state – was relatively novel in Luther's day and proved influential. James Madison, for instance, when working on the US Constitution, credited Luther for the intellectual framework behind Madison's provisions for the protections of religious liberty and separation of church and state.

Curious about how that has played out? Have concerns – or, for that matter, hopes – about how faith and politics might interact? Want to learn more about our dynamic faith tradition? Interested in hearing what Luther has to say about politics without having your pastors tell you how to vote? ☺ If any of these apply to you, join Pastors Dixon and Lose for this winter edition of "Word with Your Pastors"!

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



CHRISTMAS FOR ALL RECAP

Thanks to Mount Olivet members, the 7th annual *Christmas for All* congregational service opportunity was another amazing and rewarding event! In partnership with Love INC, Redeemer Lutheran Church, and Southside Family Nurturing Center, Christmas stores were set up throughout the month of December to provide dignified shopping experiences for families identified by our community partners. The West Campus hosts a store for more than 500 individuals. Similar shopping experiences are then hosted at Redeemer Lutheran and Southside Family Nurturing Center thanks to your gifts. Thank you, Mount Olivet family and friends, who put faith into action by donating, transporting, sorting and displaying gifts, assisting families with their shopping experiences, offering hospitality and childcare to shoppers, and beautifully wrapping gifts to make Christmas meaningful. Very special thanks to the fellowship groups and choirs whose *Christmas For All* promotion and support increased congregational participation, to Victoria Circle who spent an entire day setting the West Campus store up, to event chairs Mary Jo Huntley and Jessica Gunderson who so graciously and seamlessly lead this effort each year. God's light shines through you! Thank you!

PASTOR FREEMAN





THANK YOU!

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

2026 PLEDGE

If you haven't made a pledge to Mount Olivet for 2026, there's still time! You can pledge using the QR code, online at mtolivet.org/stewardship, or contacting Tricia Lerohl-Morgan.



NEW SCHEDULED GIVERS

If you'd like to make a one-time gift or set up a recurring gift to Mount Olivet and its ministries, thank you! Scan the "Give Here" QR Code, visit mtolivet.org under GIVING, or contact Tricia Lerohl-Morgan.



REMINDER FOR CURRENT SCHEDULED GIVERS

Is your current scheduled giving matching what you planned to give for 2026? If not, please update via your Realm account, or contact Tricia Lerohl-Morgan.

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



This is Why We Give

I was raised in a home where love, joy, and giving were modeled by my parents in the way they served and cared for others, and prioritized faithfulness. My sister and I grew up surrounded by their steady example, and Mount Olivet reinforced those lessons through Sunday school, choir, confirmation, worship, youth programs, and Cathedral of the Pines. Our Weber family and our church family shaped us into the people we are today. That foundation is one of the greatest gifts my parents provided.

Todd, after marrying into Mount Olivet, embraced that same grounding and has found his own sense of belonging here. Together, we have tried to raise Brady and Annie with the same values. They are growing up with a legacy that stretches from grandparents to parents to children, with each generation shaped by Mount Olivet in meaningful ways.

Mount Olivet is woven into our family's life in ways that go far beyond specific programs or moments. It is the place where Brady and Annie have grown up surrounded by a community that reflects God's love in everyday ways. They have learned to recognize the Holy Spirit in quiet conversations, in music that lifts their hearts, in friendships that encourage honesty, and in the steady support they feel at church. Cathedral of the Pines has deepened that even more. It is where they slow down, listen, and feel God's presence in creation and in each other. Watching them carry kindness, compassion, and courage into their daily lives reminds us that faith takes root when a loving community helps it grow. And that is what Mount Olivet has done for our family.

This is why we give. Mount Olivet continues to shape each generation of our family with love, grounding, and hope.

In gratitude and faith,

BETH, TODD, BRADY, AND ANNIE KLEMMENSEN

CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES CAMP

We are so excited for Cathedral of the Pines Camp (COP) this summer. COP combines some of the best ingredients for a positive summer experience: laughter, prayer, education, and recreation. A typical camp day includes Bible class, swimming, paddleboats, nature hikes, sports fundamentals, arts and crafts, large and small group games, and, of course, delicious food! Days at Cathedral of the Pines Camp begin and end in the chapel overlooking beautiful Lake Caribou.

MOUNT OLIVET MEMBER-ONLY REGISTRATION WILL OPEN JANUARY 12 AND CLOSE JANUARY 14. OPEN REGISTRATION BEGINS ON JANUARY 20.

Registration for Mount Olivet Members will open on Monday, January 12 at 10am and close Wednesday, January 14, at 11:59pm. This will give members three days of priority registration for our 2026 youth camping sessions via Campbrain. All Mount Olivet members will receive an early access link via email on Wednesday, January 7.

Open Registration (Non-members and Members) will begin on Tuesday, January 20 at 10am via Campbrain on the COP website. Any non-member registrations received prior to January 20 will be canceled and refunded with an invitation to register on January 20.

YOUTH CAMPING SESSIONS

GRADES 3, 4, & 5

Week 1: Saturday, July 25 - Wednesday, July 29

Week 2: Saturday, August 8 - Wednesday, August 12

GRADES 5, 6, & 7

Week 1: Sunday, July 12 - Friday, July 17

GRADES 6, 7 & 8

Week 1: Tuesday, July 7 - Sunday, July 12

Week 2: Monday, July 20 - Saturday, July 25

Week 3: Wednesday, July 29 - Monday, August 3

9TH GRADE CONFIRMATION CAMP

(MOUNT OLIVET MEMBERS ONLY)

Week 1: Saturday, June 27 - Thursday, July 2

Week 2: Monday, August 3 - Saturday, August 8

GRADE 10

10th Grade Starter: Wednesday, June 24 - Saturday, June 27

GRADES 10, 11, & 12

Hi-League Retreat: Wednesday, August 12 - Sunday, August 16

GRADES 11, 12, & GRADUATES

Summer Starter: Saturday, June 20 - Wednesday, June 24

FAMILY CAMPING SESSIONS

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE FOR FAMILY CAMPING LOTTERIES (MOUNT OLIVET MEMBERS ONLY)

Registration for Opening Weekend, Family Work Week, COP for All, and Family Camp lotteries begins on Tuesday, January 20, at 10am, and must be received by February 3 at 11:59pm, via Campbrain. All lottery results will be communicated via email by February 10.

FAMILY CAMPING (MOUNT OLIVET MEMBERS ONLY) OPENING WEEKEND

Friday, May 22 - Monday, May 25

FAMILY WORK WEEK

Wednesday, June 17 - Saturday, June 20

COP FOR ALL

Friday, July 17 - Monday, July 20

FAMILY CAMP

Thursday, August 20 - Sunday, August 23

HI-ER LEAGUE WEEKEND

COLLEGE AGED

Thursday, May 28 - Sunday, May 31

REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR HI-ER LEAGUE WEEKEND

Registration for the Hi-er League Weekend opens Tuesday, January 20, at 10am, and will be accepted online, first-come, first-served via Campbrain through May 26, 2026.

CONTACT US!

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT
CAMP COORDINATOR, KRIS ERICKSEN,
AT KRISE@MTOLIVET.ORG OR 612.767.2207.**



MOUNT OLIVET DAY CAMPS

MEMBER REGISTRATION IS OPEN JANUARY 13-15!

OPEN REGISTRATION BEGINS JANUARY 21.

Each Day Camp costs \$325 for members and \$365 for non-members; both prices include snacks, a T-shirt, activities, and field trips. Day Camps run from 8:30am-4:30pm with extended day care available from 7:30am to 5:30pm at no additional cost at the Mpls Campus and 8am to 5:30pm at the West Campus.

KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 5TH GRADE

SPLASH INTO SUMMER!

Mpls Campus: Monday, June 8 through Friday, June 12

This week we will splash around at three different pools and waterparks throughout the Twin Cities. We'll also play water games and break out the giant slip and slide at Mount Olivet.

GOD'S KIDS SING!

Mpls Campus: Monday, June 15 through Friday, June 19

Our longest running Mount Olivet Day Camp, God's Kids Sing, focuses on singing, dancing, playing instruments, and all kinds of art projects.

GOING WILD

Mpls Campus: Monday, June 22 through Friday, June 26

It's a wild world out there, and we're going to have an awesome time learning about the animals that share it with us! We will head to the Como Zoo, visit Fawn Doe Rosa Nature Park, and have a great time splashing around at a local pool.

NATURE CAMP

Mpls Campus: Monday, June 29 through Wednesday, July 1
\$195 Member (\$219 Non-Member)

Held at the beautiful Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center, Nature camp is an opportunity to learn more about the outdoors and connect to the environment.

TREASURE ISLAND

Mpls Campus: Monday, July 6 through Friday, July 10

Ahoy there, campers! We'll hunt for treasure and have an adventure this week at Day Camp. Stops on our map include the Children's Museum, going to a pool, and playing at a Three Rivers playground.

IMAGINATION CREATION

Mpls Campus: Monday, July 13 through Friday, July 17
West Campus: Monday, July 20 through Friday, July 24

We will foster creativity and spark our imagination this week through art projects, creative thinking, and our ever-popular Cardboard Creation Lab. We will take a field trip to see a theater show, go swimming, and have a ton of fun!

COOKING WEEK

Mpls Campus: Monday, July 20 through Friday, July 24

West Campus: Monday, July 6 through Friday, July 10

Learn some skills in the kitchen while having a blast! During cooking week, we will learn to make a variety of fun kid-friendly recipes as well as go on some fun field trips. We're all about breaking the rule "don't play with your food!"

SUPER STEM SUMMER

Mpls Campus: Monday, July 27 through Friday, July 31

We might not have superpowers but our super brains are capable of changing the world! During Super STEM Summer, we will do a variety of science projects, learn about the power of electricity at the Bakken Museum, visit the Fun Lab, and make waves at the pool.

ART EXPLOSIONS

Mpls Campus: Monday, August 3 through Friday, August 7

We are going to get wild about color and experiment with art techniques this week at camp. We'll explore the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, go swimming, and take an art class at a local art center.

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Mpls Campus: Monday, August 10 through Friday, August 14

We will turn into astronauts this week as we learn more about space and planets at the Bell Museum planetarium! We'll enjoy lots of space-related crafts and activities, have fun swimming, and finish the week off with a glow party!

GAMES GALORE

Mpls Campus: Monday, August 17 through Wednesday, 19
\$195 Member (\$219 Non-Member)

Let's beat the heat and end summer with a blast! Join us for Games Galore as we play a variety of games like gaga ball, minute-to-win it, bingo, and trivia. We will also take field trips to Grand Slam, a waterpark, and go bowling.

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

JUNE 9-11: We will travel to the Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center to participate in energizing outdoor activities, experience moments of calm and reflection, and connect as a group through teambuilding and service. \$195

JUNE 23-25: Learn to make some delicious recipes, experiment with flavors, and broaden your horizon with global flavors. \$195

AUGUST 17-19: Make the most out of the end of the summer with bowling, Grand Slam, and swimming. \$195

JULY 13-17: SUMMERTIME PLAYERS! 6TH-8TH GRADE STP! is a music-based day camp specifically designed for Middle Schoolers. Days are action-packed with team games, singing and dancing to pop and musical theater songs, and afternoon field trips. STP! is the perfect place to make new friends and to bond with the Youth Staff and Music Staff at Mount Olivet! \$325

JULY 13-17: TEAM STP! 9TH-12TH GRADE A week-long counseling opportunity for high school students who love to sing, dance, and have FUN! \$100

HI-LEAGUE PRESENTS: INTERGENERATIONAL CRIBBAGE EVENT

Sunday, February 1, 1-2pm, Mpls Campus

Hosted by Mount Olivet Cribbage Club Hi-League students.

Please join us for the first annual Intergenerational Cribbage Event. If you are able, please bring your own cribbage board and cards. Refreshments will be provided. The afternoon is sure to be full of counting, conversation, and of course, competition! Register via *Realm* or scan this QR Code.



HIGH SCHOOL CONFIRMATION

Did you know that we offer a Confirmation program for high schoolers? If you missed the standard Confirmation experience in 7th and 8th grade, and you'd like to understand more about your faith and this church, High School Confirmation is perfect for you! This group meets from 11-11:45am on Sundays from January 11 through February 1, and then there is a special Confirmation worship service on Sunday, February 8 at 11:45am. Please contact Angie St. Dennis at Angelas@mtolivet.org for more information or to register.

YOUTH SCHEDULE

JUNIOR HIGH ALIVE (JHA) 6TH-8TH GRADE

7TH GRADE RETREATS

4:45pm-10:30am

January 16 through January 17

February 6 through February 7

ROLLER SKATING

January 19, 12-2:30pm, Skateville

SNOWTUBING

February 16, 10:30am-2pm, Elm Creek Park Reserve

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

March 7, 10:30am-3:30pm

SPRING FOOD DRIVE

March 22, in between services, Mpls & West Campuses

Questions about JHA? Contact Anna Herd at
aherd@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2279.

HI-LEAGUE 9TH-12TH GRADE

SHAREGROUPS

7-8:30pm, Mpls Campus

January 18

February 1

February 22

March 8

ICE SKATING

January 11, 6-7pm, Centennial Lakes

SNOWTUBING

February 25, 5:30-8pm, Buck Hill

BOWLING

March 1, 6-8pm, Park Tavern

Questions about Hi-League? Contact Geoff Arenson at
geoffa@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2212.



Joyful Moments

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.
John 15:11

JULIE GOODMAN, *Director of Congregational Care Ministry*

Happy 2026! As I was reflecting on this past year, I wanted to focus on the good things that have happened and not the tough stuff. As I was thinking of joyful moments, one came across my mind that makes me smile. This moment has happened many times throughout the year.

The preschoolers of Mount Olivet pass by the Congregational Care office on their way to their classrooms. I often hear them run into the building, so excited to be here and their sweet voices saying, "Good Morning." In the afternoon, they share with their parents all that they have done throughout the day. Those sweet voices bring a smile to my face and joy to my heart for their excitement to learn and be with their friends.

That made me think, what can we do to bring joy to others? Bringing joy to others can be very simple: holding a door for someone, smiling and saying hello to someone you don't know. It can be a bit bigger like bringing a favorite coffee drink to a friend,

asking a co-worker how they are doing and listening intently to their answer, or bringing someone a meal who has been going through a difficult time.

It could even be bigger, by bringing joy in your heart to volunteer. There are so many ways to share your joy throughout our church community. It could be as simple as bringing a member to a church service or helping with our food drives just a few times a year. It could be helping at a funeral reception or serving meals Thursday evenings as part of the Community Meals program. You could share your joy more often by volunteering on the Parking Lot Crew at either campus or joining choir and sharing your gift of joy through singing. These are just a few examples; there are so many more. Sharing joy builds and strengthens friendships and community connections. How will you share your joy?

FEATURED EVENTS

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Saturday, January 10,
9:30am-1pm, Mpls Campus

Join us for an all-congregation “faith in action” service opportunity. We’ll have breakfast together, then head out to five partner organizations (Pastor Scott’s Inner Ministry, Community Emergency Service, Lutheran Social Service, Love INC, and Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery) for a day of service. Let’s get to know our neighbors and share God’s love together! Sign up at mtolivet.org or contact Laurie Hancer at lhancer@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2267.



FIKA MUSIC SERIES: MINNESOTA PERCUSSION TRIO

Sunday, January 25,
2-2:30pm, Mpls Campus

Join us for an exciting and dynamic concert of sound and rhythm by a celebrated ensemble known for their innovative and engaging performances. Former Artists in Residence with Minnesota Public Radio and the Minnesota State Academy for the Blind, this Trio integrates music with STEM education to captivate audiences across the region. Their concerts showcase a wide-ranging repertoire that includes masterworks for percussion ensemble. Members Bob Adney, Erik Barsness, and Paul Hill, all esteemed educators at institutions such as St. Olaf, Gustavus Adolphus, and MacPhail. Don't miss this concert to remember!



MOCW LADIES' NIGHT

Tuesday, February 24, 5:15-7pm, Mpls Campus, \$25

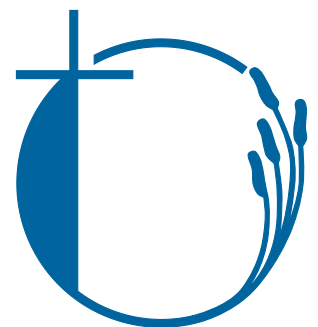
Join us at for an evening of fun as we enjoy an amazing meal and hear from life-long Mount Olivet member, **JILL PALMQUIST**. Jill is the Chief Story Telling Officer at Life Time and author of *In This Lifetime*. She has worked for the athletic country club for over 20 years, helping people live healthy, happy lives. With humor and candor, she will offer some perspective on the beauty and brevity of life. *What Will You Do in Your Lifetime?* In the average lifespan of 79 years, you'll spend approximately 90,000 hours working, 230,000 sleeping, 32,000 eating and drinking and two years standing in line, and that's just the start. Jill offers a few insights on the way we choose to spend our hours, days, years, and time and how these decisions shape our lives.



DAY LENTEN JOURNEY

Tuesday, February 24,
10am-3pm, Conference & Retreat, \$20

Though Lent's purpose is to strengthen trust in God's grace and our relationships with one another, we often mistake it for an exercise in personal piety. Rather than becoming another checklist to prove whether we gave something up perfectly, prayed the right way or contributed enough, Lent is meant to be a time of honesty with God, ourselves, and one another. Join Pastor Dixon, Pastor Freeman, and Rev. Bork for our Day Lenten Journey at the MOCRC, exploring the truth of Lent – leading us from our honest confession of sin to God's life-giving promise of grace. Online registration is now open at mtolivetretreat.org.





UPCOMING AT MOUNT OLIVET

JANUARY 2026

MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION AT MTOLIVET.ORG

NEW MEMBER MEET & GREET

Sunday, January 11, 9:30am-12noon, Mpls Campus

Interested in becoming a member of Mount Olivet? Come to the Lounge after worship services where Pastor Freeman and Katie Lose, Coordinator of Membership, will be available to answer any questions you may have.

CAREER & CALLING VIRTUAL MEETING

Tuesday, January 13, 5:30-7pm, Teams

Join us for an online conversation as we network, learn, and grow professionally through learning and supporting each other as we balance work and life. The meeting link will be sent in the registration confirmation email.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday, January 15, 10:30-11:30am, Mpls Campus

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.

YOUNG IN HEART & FRIENDS LUNCHEON

Tuesday, January 20, 12noon-1:30pm, Mpls Campus, \$10

Join us for lunch and listen to our Senior Pastor David Lose speak on "The Most Important Legacy". Please register by January 16.

NORTHERN LIGHTS ACRYLIC POUR ART CLASS

Monday, January 26, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus, \$40

Learn the process of mixing acrylic paints with other materials to give it a more fluid consistency so that it can be poured directly onto a canvas. We will be adding details to our pour to make it look like a snowy night with Northern Lights in the sky.

FRIENDS FOREVER: HAPPY HOUR AT KINCAID'S

Monday, January 26, 4-6pm, Kincaid's Fish, Chop, & Steakhouse - Bloomington

Take the chill out of a cold January night with warm conversation and friendship!

FEBRUARY 2026

FRIENDS FOREVER: ST PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA @ WOODDALE CHURCH

Friday, February 6, 11am-1:30pm, Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie, \$15 plus lunch

Spend the day together listening to the St Paul Chamber Orchestra followed by lunch at Scoreboard Grill!

CAREER & CALLING MEETING

Tuesday, February 10, 5-7pm, West Campus

Save the date! Mount Olivet's Career & Calling ministry offers our members and friends an arena for nurturing our careers and supporting each other. Look for further details in the February *Messenger*.

FLYING SOLO: MYSTERY TOUR

Sunday, February 15, 12:15-5pm, Mpls Campus, \$55

Join Flying Solo for an afternoon mystery trip! Meet in the Mpls Campus church parking lot for an afternoon of fun! We'll make a few stops and be back at church by 5pm - make sure to dress comfortably!

FAMILY FIKA - FIKA MUSIC SERIES: MOZART MAGIC FLUTE FOR KIDS

Saturday, February 21, 10-10:30am, Mpls Campus

See opera come alive! Watch the story of a brave prince named Tamino, who goes on a journey to rescue Princess Pamina, the daughter of the powerful Queen of the Night. He's helped by a funny bird-catcher named Papageno and a magical flute that can make people happy or calm. In the end, good wins over evil, and the story shows that love, kindness, being brave, and smart can help us through the tough times.

MARRIAGE PREP WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 21, 9:30am-3:30pm, Mpls Campus, \$150+\$35 assessment scoring fee

We invite you to participate in a very important, practical and relevant marriage preparation workshop. Register by February 13.

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SUMMER REGISTRATION

MOUNT OLIVET DAY CAMPS AND CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES CAMP!

MEMBER ONLY REGISTRATION DATES:

CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES: JANUARY 12 THROUGH JANUARY 14

MOUNT OLIVET DAY CAMPS: JANUARY 13 THROUGH JANUARY 15

OPEN (MEMBER/NON-MEMBER) REGISTRATION DATES:

CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES: JANUARY 20

MOUNT OLIVET DAY CAMPS: JANUARY 21