

FEBRUARY 2026

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

## FEBRUARY 1

**NICODEMUS AND  
THE WORLD'S MOST  
FAMOUS BIBLE VERSE**  
*John 3, selected verses*

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

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

## FEBRUARY 8

**THE WOMAN AT THE  
WELL, THE FIRST  
EVANGELIST**  
*John 4, selected verses*

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

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

## FEBRUARY 15

**HEALING ON THE  
SABBATH**  
*John 5:2-16*

**M** 9, 10, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Hammersten  
**MUSIC** Handbells

**W** 9, 10, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Freeman  
**MUSIC** Soloist

## FEBRUARY 18

**ASH WEDNESDAY  
COMMUNION SERVICES**  
*John 6:60-69*

**M** 8am, 12noon, 5pm, &  
\*7pm

**W** 5pm & \*7pm

*\*Youth-led service*

*The Mpls Campus services will  
be livestreamed at 12noon &  
7pm at mtolivet.org.*

## FEBRUARY 22

**ENCOUNTERING JESUS  
TRUE DISCIPLES**  
*John 8:12, 31-38*

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

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

### 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.

# Scripture & Community

“What does the Bible say about it?” It’s a common question asked by Christians, particularly during times of moral deliberation. It’s also a faithful one, as it stems from reverence and respect for the authority of Scripture. But answering it is not always as straightforward as we might wish. By and large, you will find two dominant ways of eliciting how Scripture addresses questions and challenges of the day.

The first is to trust the enduring truth of Scripture and therefore look for *answers*. This approach is expressed succinctly by a bumper sticker you may have seen: “The Bible says it. I believe it. That settles it.” The conviction behind this sentiment is that Scripture addresses whatever challenge or problem before us through specific and concrete moral injunctions.

The second approach, recognizing that the historical and cultural differences between the biblical authors and us makes finding specific answers challenging, looks instead for biblical “principles” that can be applied to present day situations. The conviction is that, though times may change, human nature remains the same, and the Bible’s continued relevance rests in its underlying principles.

On one level these two approaches are quite different. On another level, however, they are united in the belief that the Bible should *tell us what to do*. That is, whether searching for answers or discerning principles, the primary thrust of these approaches is to *apply* Scripture to present day circumstances.

At Mount Olivet, and in the Lutheran tradition more broadly, we have followed a third option: as God’s living and active Word, *Scripture is less interested in telling us what to do as it is in telling us who we are*. Scripture is neither a collection of answers nor principles. Rather, Scripture is a collection of stories about God and the people of God that, as we read it, shapes us as individuals and as a community.

Martin Luther gave voice to this approach when he described the church as “a creature of the God’s Word” (*creatura verbi divini*), meaning that the church was established, nurtured, and maintained not by any earthly authority or religious traditions, but through the proclamation of the Gospel. In 1930s Germany, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran pastor, theologian, and member of the *Confessing Church* that resisted Adolf Hitler’s regime, made this dynamic, community-creating element of Scripture the center of his preaching and teaching.

Bonhoeffer was deeply suspicious of any attempt to *apply* Scripture to present day challenges because he felt that when we approach the Bible seeking answers to contemporary questions, we unwittingly transform Scripture from a present-tense, living and active Word of God into a static, past-tense collection of information. This does not mean that the Bible has nothing to say to our present challenges. Rather, Bonhoeffer believed that instead of bringing our questions to Scripture to see if it has anything relevant to say, we are called to listen as attentively as possible to Scripture in our present circumstances and see how it forms us into a community and guides our actions in the world.

This trust in Scripture’s ability to shape us into a community that together discerns God’s will for us today shapes nearly everything we do at Mount Olivet. It’s why, for instance, we moved to a “narrative lectionary;” that is, a pattern of Sunday readings that leads us through full sections of the Old Testament and the Gospels in narrative order. It’s why our Sunday School is rooted in Bible stories and songs. It’s why we offer the “Living the Message” class and other opportunities for Bible study. It’s why every unit in Confirmation begins with a Bible study and each session of Sixth-Grade Starter focuses on a story about Jesus. It’s why we offer weekly and seasonal devotions. It’s why.... Do you see what I mean? Nearly everything we do at Mount Olivet is designed to offer us opportunities to listen to God’s Word and be formed into a community of that Word.

But this trust in Scripture’s ability to shape us into a community that together discerns God’s will for today also takes time. It doesn’t offer immediate answers or principles but instead counts on the Holy Spirit to transform hearts over the long run. Which means that, when seeking guidance related to present day challenges, we need to be patient, to listen to and respect divergent opinions, and to trust God’s Spirit to lead us forward, sometimes clearly and sometimes haltingly, but always trusting God’s Word to do what it says: remind us that we are the children of God, called together as a community to witness God’s love in Jesus in word and deed. As we can do this, the rest will take care of itself.

See you in Church!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR

# GENEROSITY UPDATE!

Your generosity matters. Counting our blessings and sharing them with others not only is one of the most effective ways to boost happiness and strengthen faith, but it also changes lives, and so I'm eager to share with you the impact of our congregational generosity. This past December, we increased the goal of our Christmas gifts by \$50,000 in order to support our longtime partner, Community Emergency Service, in an ambitious appeal. Below is a note from Jamie Dolynchuk, President of CES, reporting on that effort:

"I wanted to share an update on your partnership with CES and offer heartfelt thanks for your faithful support this Christmas season. Through your generosity, CES was able to launch a matching campaign that reached more than 5,000 donors in December and resulted in over \$200,000 in gifts. The combined gifts from you and CES's broader donor community will help refurbish and expand our primary food shelf in response to an unprecedented increase in visits, continue innovative efforts such as expanding outdoor refrigerated food lockers, and grow our food rescue program across the state. We are deeply grateful for how God is using your generosity to advance CES's mission to turn hunger into hope. Thank you for being faithful partners in this work!"

Generosity matters. To our individual lives, to our congregation, and to the well-being of our neighbors and community. Thank you!

SENIOR PASTOR LOSE

# AN INTERGENERATIONAL BIBLE STUDY: JOHN – THE ODDBALL GOSPEL!

Sunday, March 8, 6pm, Mpls Campus

This winter and spring we are reading through the Gospel of John. Did you know that John almost didn't make it into our Bible? Or that the author is not John, one of Jesus' twelve disciples, but likely an unidentified character only named as "the disciple Jesus loved?" Or that John at points contradicts the testimony of Matthew, Mark, and Luke? And that John doesn't really care about that (and we probably shouldn't either)?

John is, in a word, different. Or in two words, really different! (Hence, "the oddball Gospel.") But John is also the source of some of the most profound reflections on Jesus in the New Testament.

So come and join us for a Bible study for all ages, led by Pastor Lose and facilitated by our pastoral team. You won't regret it!!

## EASTER CHANCEL GARDEN

**ORDER ONLINE FROM FEBRUARY 9 – MARCH 15**

During this special time of year, please consider honoring or remembering a loved one by purchasing a spring plant to beautify our sanctuaries for Easter morning. The cost is \$30 per plant. Look for plant options and complete your purchase by visiting [mtolivet.org/easter-chancel-garden](http://mtolivet.org/easter-chancel-garden) or by calling Jody Barbee at 952.767.1501. A list of the donors and those remembered or honored will be included in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. Easter plants can be picked up at both campuses on Sunday, April 5, after the 11am service until 12:30pm or on Tuesday, April 7, from 10am-12noon.

## NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR RECAP

On Saturday, January 10, 90 Mount Olivet members gathered for our first annual Neighbor to Neighbor Day. We met for breakfast and devotions at the Minneapolis campus, then divided into groups that learned about and served five of our community ministry partners: Pastor Scott's Inner City Ministry, Community Emergency Service, Lutheran Social Services, Love INC, and Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery. Setting aside this day of service allowed us to more intentionally put faith into action, build community, and share joy with one another. It also reminded us that loving God by loving our neighbor is something we get to do every day. Thanks, Mount Olivet, for living God's love so beautifully!

## LIFE & GROWTH

**DEC 16 - JAN 13**

### BAPTISMS

**Wyatt William Anderson**

*son of Allison and Noah*

**William John Crucey**

*son of Robin and Bryce*

**Madelyn Ava Dillon**

*daughter of Lauren and Michael*

**Olivia Marie Dillon**

*daughter of Lauren and Michael*

**William Michael Dillon**

*son of Lauren and Michael*

**Maddox Keelan Frend**

*son of Kristan and Andrew*

**Hannah Mae Lafond**

*daughter of Jennifer and Patrick*

**Miles Anthony Lind**

*son of Jessica and Anthony*

**Riley Ryan Lind**

*son of Jessica and Anthony*

**Cora Ruth Mangano**

*daughter of Emma and Nick*

**Emma Mangano**

**Laurel Josephine Mangano**

*daughter of Emma and Nick*

**Dante Lorenzo Morales**

*son of Manda and Mike*

**Mercedes Lourdes Morales**

*son of Manda and Mike*

**Benett Emil Castro Sveddal**

*son of Cintia and Jeff*

**Vincent Iro Castro Sveddal**

*son of Cintia and Jeff*

**Vera Claire Thompson**

*daughter of Ellen and Zach*

**James Henrik Vanderkooy**

*son of Karyn and Seth*

**Holmes McLachlan Volenec**

*son of Erin and Jeremy*

**Charles Richard Walsh**

*son of Katie and Nick*

**Vera Zeis**

*daughter of Nancy and Michael*

### WEDDINGS

**Carrie Sayre & Charles Wagner**

**Autumn Finch & Andy Tangen**

### DEATHS

**Betty L. Ahlness**

**David (Mike) Anderson**

**Barbara Brotherton**

**Karen C. Christenson**

**Collin R. Dobin**

**Charles Dymoke**

**Kathleen E. Erickson**

**Lynda Lerum**

**Judith Nybeck**

**Audrey M. Sherman**

**Phyllis J. Williams**

## DEVOTION

My dog, Doppler, loves the dog park. For the dog park to work, however, she needs other dogs to show up, even on the coldest, windiest, wintery days. This happens to be a big ask for us humans, when leaving the warmth of our homes to go stand in single digits feels nearly impossible. What I've found is that I'm more motivated to go when I remember the other dogs who need Doppler there, as well as the humans who hope that I dig deep so they can care for their dogs, too.

It's in this way that the dog park is kind of like church. We often think we go to church for ourselves, but we also go for others. It's at church that we can sing for our pew mate who is struggling and pray when they don't have the words. Church reminds us that we need each other. *Your neighbor needs you.*

So late into this winter season, when the shoveling is most annoying and winter is taking its toll, remember your neighbor, your pew mate, and the person who needs to see your friendly face. Then join us in church, so they can feel God's love through you and know that they belong.

— PASTOR OLSON POPP



## MOUNT OLIVET PRESCHOOL: TEACHER OPENING!

The Mount Olivet Preschool is seeking to hire a full-time preschool teacher. Ideal candidates would be teacher-qualified, come with early-childhood teaching experience, and enthusiasm for working with young learners and their families.

The Mount Olivet Preschool is a special community within our Minneapolis Campus! Our three classrooms are filled with 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old students. The Preschool is licensed by the Department of Human Services and is open Monday - Friday, year-round.

Interested applicants can reach out to our Director of Preschool, Lisa Rosenfield, at [lrosenfield@mtolivet.org](mailto:lrosenfield@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2216.

## BABY BASKET DONATIONS

Accepting Donations through Saturday, February 28

The MOCW Joy Circle has a long-standing tradition of making baby baskets for Pastor Scott's ministry and is looking for donations for infants (age 0-2). Items needed include are baby clothing, gently used books and blankets, and new diapers and wipes. If you are able to donate, please leave your donations in the labeled bin outside the main office at the Mpls Campus. Thank you in advance for your support!

# INVEST IN HOPE

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church and its affiliates would like to invite you to a night of celebration and fundraising. This is an evening where over 500 participants provide generosity to the affiliates by donating, attending, and learning more about the life-changing work that is being done by each of these organizations. Your support by being a sponsor, donating to our silent auction and wine wall, or giving to one of the six beloved organizations is what guarantees a successful evening filled with inspiration.

All proceeds from this event are given back 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 these communities!

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

### SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS ARE NEEDED

The Gala Committee is encouraging the congregation to donate one of the following suggested items below. Donations are due by April 15 and can be dropped off at the Mpls Campus. For donation questions, please contact Karen Beese, Gala Chair, at 612.747.1256. **All donations must be new.** Below is a listing of suggested donations for the Silent Auction.

#### Premier Items and Unique Experiences:

- Experiences (host a gathering or activity)
- Tickets (theatre, concerts, sporting events, golf, shows)
- Travel (airline tickets, hotels, condos, cabins, resorts)
- Restaurant and food gift cards
- Jewelry and fashion items
- Bottles of wine for the "Wine Wall" (value of \$20 or more)
- Electronics (laptops, cameras)
- Memorabilia (autographs or sports gear)

#### Standard Items:

- New home maintenance tools
- New home décor items and artwork
- Personal service gift certificates (salon, massages, fitness)
- Pet services (grooming, boarding, pet accessories)
- Themed baskets (cooking, children, pets, coffee, etc.)
- Cash donations (checks payable to Mount Olivet Lutheran Church)

### ATTEND THE EVENT

Thursday, May 7, 2026, Oak Ridge Country Club, \$40  
*Ticket sales open March 1*

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

### 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 Careview Home
- Mount Olivet Day Services
- Mount Olivet Home
- Mount Olivet Rolling Acres

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



## MOUNT OLIVET BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Come and enjoy a lively discussion of a new book every month. New members are always welcome! Join in for one discussion – or all!

### DAYTIME DISCUSSIONS

10-11:30am the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Mpls Campus Library

### EVENING DISCUSSIONS

7-8:30pm the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Mpls Campus Library

### UPCOMING BOOKS

**FEBRUARY 10/11:** *Master Slave Husband Wife* by Lyon 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

*Please be sure to register to receive reminder emails and more. You can register online at [mtolivet.org/education](https://mtolivet.org/education) or by contacting Katie Stevenson at [katies@mtolivet.org](mailto:katies@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2232.*

# LIVING THE MESSAGE

## STORIES THAT SHAPE US

This Living the Message series runs the first Tuesday of the month through May 2026, 6:30-7:30pm or via emailed videos. All are welcome at any time.

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

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. — PASTOR CIESLIK

### THE BOOK OF JOB: NO ONE CARES ABOUT JOB UNTIL THEY NEED JOB

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

Job, a righteous and faithful man, loses everything. No one understands why. His friends show up to help but end up talking in circles. Then another guy shows up with more to say about Job's situation but has nothing new to add. Finally, after 37 chapters of humans failing to answer the "why" question, God and Job talk it out, leaving Job humbled and in awe of the God who created the universe. Eventually, Job is given a new life and a new future, not as a replacement for what he's lost but as his own resurrection from the void.

This is a book filled with more questions than answers, and one theologians and philosophers have tried to understand for centuries. We'll touch on some of these noteworthy themes but focus more on the human aspects of Job's story that resonate with our own lives. My hope is that you can find a friend in Job, as you wrestle with suffering, loss, grief, and your own questions of "why does this happen?" I don't promise any answers to the question of suffering, but I can promise someone in the Bible who understands what it means to lose it all, feel extremely alone, and be offered the gift of resurrection anyway. — PASTOR OLSON POPP

LIVING THE MESSAGE 2025-2026

STORIES  
THAT  
SHAPE  
US

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

# A Season of Warmth and Wonder at Mount Olivet Careview Home

December brings a special kind of magic to Mount Olivet Careview Home, where the Christmas season is celebrated not as a single day, but as a month-long experience filled with tradition, creativity, music, and togetherness.

The festivities began with the beloved annual Lutefisk Dinner in the Lund Chapel. Welcoming more than 30 residents, this cherished tradition signaled the official start of the season and offered a comforting reminder of Christmases past while bringing friends together in celebration.

Throughout the month, residents and their loved ones gathered for Resident and Family Christmas Parties at both Mount Olivet Home and Careview Home. Lively music and an elegant dessert buffet, graciously served by staff, set the stage for afternoons filled with laughter, conversation, and meaningful connection.

Music was a central theme of the season. Students from Mount Olivet Church's Adopt-A-Grandparent program shared joyful Christmas carols, followed by a performance from the Chapel Strings on December 1. On December 10, eighth-grade students from Annunciation School filled the Lund Chapel with song before morning worship, creating memorable intergenerational moments.

Creativity also flourished as residents crafted Christmas wreaths and ornaments with the help of therapeutic recreation staff and volunteers. The handmade decorations added festive warmth throughout the building. The Adopt-A-Grandparent students returned later in the month to craft alongside residents, deepening relationships through shared creativity.

Holiday baking brought the season to life in kitchens across the community. Residents enjoyed preparing cranberry muffins, Christmas dips, gingerbread houses, and decorated cookies. One cozy afternoon featured a "Cup of Christmas Tea" social by the fireplace, offering warmth, conversation, and reflection.

A highlight of the season was a visit from Santa Claus and two reindeer, who returned for a second year. Residents gathered in the Lund Chapel for photos, visits, and an educational presentation from DMDK Reindeer of Dassel, Minnesota—an unforgettable experience filled with smiles and laughter.

The season concluded on Christmas Eve with a worship service in the Lund Chapel. The resident bell choir opened the service, followed by Scripture, prayers, and beloved carols, bringing the celebrations to a peaceful and reflective close.

From meals and music to crafts, baking, and worship, the Christmas season at Mount Olivet Careview Home was a heartfelt celebration of community, love, and connection—memories to be cherished long after the season ends.

## EXCITING UPDATES ARE COMING TO MOUNT OLIVET HOME

Mount Olivet Home is preparing to begin a renovation project aimed at refreshing and modernizing shared spaces throughout the facility. The last renovation occurred in 2009. Mount Olivet Careview Home was under construction from 2016 -2018 for the addition of the 5 story tower and renovation, so Mount Olivet Home is due. Construction is scheduled to start February 9 and will continue for approximately four months, with work progressing floor by floor beginning on the fourth level.

The renovation will focus on improving common areas that residents, staff, and visitors use every day. Planned updates include corridors, lounges, nurse stations, and other gathering spaces. Resident rooms will not be affected by the construction.

Mount Olivet Home administrators say staff will work closely with residents to ensure their comfort, safety, and daily routines are maintained throughout the project.

Improvements will include new ceiling tiles, corridor carpeting, handrails, signage, and wall coverings, along with updated countertops and millwork at nursing stations. Lounge areas throughout the building will also be refreshed.

The renovation is being completed in partnership with Kraus Anderson Construction, with a focus on minimizing disruptions while work is underway. Once finished, the updates are expected to provide a more modern, welcoming environment for residents and visitors alike.



## 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](https://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 QR Code below, visit [mtolivet.org](https://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](mailto:tricial@mtolivet.org).

# WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

At Mount Olivet, Stewardship is both a celebration and a commitment. Every September, we gather for our traditional meatball meal—a time to share food, friendship, and gratitude for all God has provided. It's a true celebration!

But Stewardship isn't just meatballs in September. It also looks forward, inviting each of us to share our God-given blessings all year long. It isn't just about numbers; it's about saying, "Yes—I'm part of God's work here at Mount Olivet, and I want to help make it happen." Thank you to all who share your gifts to keep the ministries of Mount Olivet alive and thriving!

### WHAT STEWARDSHIP IS

- **A spiritual practice:** Stewardship begins with our relationship with God. It's about recognizing that everything we have—time, talents, and resources—is a gift from God.
- **Gratitude in action:** We respond to God's generosity by aligning our giving with what we value most: ministries that share Christ's love and serve the greater good.
- **Faith-driven priorities:** Stewardship is not just about money—it's about living faithfully and investing in what matters for God's work in the world.

### WHAT STEWARDSHIP ISN'T

- **Just paying bills:** While funding the church's budget is necessary, it's not the heart of Stewardship. It's a byproduct of our shared commitment, not the primary goal.
- **A transaction:** Stewardship is not about meeting quotas or obligations; it's about transformation—our hearts, our community, and the world.

### CONNECTING BOTH

- Stewardship has two sides: the **primary** spiritual call to gratitude and generosity and the joy of sharing our blessings with others, and the **secondary** practical need to sustain ministry through a budget.
- When we give from gratitude, the budget takes care of itself because our gifts flow from faith, not fear.

I am so grateful for the generous members of Mount Olivet and am blessed to work with and for you all!

**KATIE STEVENSON**, *Director of Stewardship*

# FEATURED EVENTS

## 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 at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org).



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

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

The St. Croix Valley Opera presents a story filled with wonder and magic through singing, acting, costumes, and props. This opera is like a fairy tale filled with magic, adventure, and a quest for truth and love!

It tells 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, and being brave and smart can help us through even the toughest times.



## MOCW LADIES' NIGHT

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

Join us 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. Register now at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org).



## DAY LENTEN JOURNEY

Tuesday, February 24, 10am-3pm, Conference & Retreat Center, \$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](http://mtolivetretreat.org).





# UPCOMING AT MOUNT OLIVET

## FEBRUARY 2026

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

### CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

**Thursday, February 5 & Thursday, February 19, 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.

### 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: SPEAKER ANGIE GUSTAFSON

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

Join us at the West campus to hear from Angie Gustafson, Mount Olivet member, who will share her career (and calling) story and the lessons she has learned along the way. It is sure to be an inspiring and informative evening!

### 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.

### YOUNG IN HEART & FRIENDS LUNCHEON

**Tuesday, February 17, 12noon-1:30pm, Mpls Campus, \$10**

Join us for lunch, laughter and a little mystery. The Mystery Cafe presents "The Private Eye in TEAM." Alexander Vander Anderson's untimely demise sparks a game of creativity and comedy. Register by February 13.

### 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.

### ART CLASS: WINTER SCENE PALETTE KNIFE PAINTING

**Monday, February 23, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus, \$45**

Palette knife painting is a fun alternative to painting with a brush. In this class, you will learn to create striking texture and effects as you create a beautiful painting on an 8 x 10 inch canvas.

## MARCH 2026

### COP 11 O'CLOCK ACTIVITY FOR CURRENT 3RD, 4TH, & 5TH GRADERS

**Sunday, March 1, 11am-12:30pm, Mpls Campus, \$10**

Are you missing Cathedral of the Pines Camp? Want to reconnect with your camp friends? Are you a potential first-time camper that wants a glimpse into what COP is all about? We will have a large group time and then break out into "11 O'Clock" activities. You can choose from a nature walk, crafts, playing in the gym, and more! Lunch will also be served!

### 17TH MOTORHEADS @ LE CHATEAU

**Tuesday, March 10, 5:30-8:15pm, West Campus, \$20 paid by 3/8, \$25 at the door, \$10 for youth 18 and under**

Park and shuttle from Mount Olivet West Campus, 7150 Rolling Acres Road, Victoria. Arrive between 5:30pm and 7pm (shuttles run continuously until 8pm). Join fellow Motorheads for this fun gathering at the Herreid-Rivet home (Le Chateau) where you will enjoy delicious food, cool cars, interesting displays, Pastor Kalland's devotion, and more!

### MASTERWORKS CONCERT: RUTTER REQUIEM

**Thursday, March 12, 7-8pm, Mpls Campus, FREE**

This expressive, contemporary work will feature professional instrumentalists, a soloist, and choral singers from Mount Olivet and the greater community. If you are looking for a fulfilling short-term singing opportunity this winter, we invite you to join the *Requiem* chorus!



**MOUNT OLIVET  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**ASH WEDNESDAY  
COMMUNION SERVICES**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

**MPLS CAMPUS**

8AM, \*12NOON, 5PM, & (YOUTH-LED) \*7PM

**WEST CAMPUS**

5PM & (YOUTH-LED) 7PM

*\*Streaming at mtolivet.org*

**MTOLIVET.ORG** MPLS 612.926.7651 • WEST 952.767.1500



*Ladies'  
Night*

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026  
5:15PM, MPLS CAMPUS**

\$25 INCLUDES DINNER & PRESENTATION

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