

APRIL 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

## APRIL 5

**EASTER SUNDAY  
RESURRECTION**  
*John 20:1-18*

**M** 7, 8, 9, 10, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Lose  
**MUSIC** Cathedral &  
Sanctuary Choirs with  
Orchestra

**W** 7, 8, 9, 10, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Dixon  
**MUSIC** Cathedral &  
Sanctuary Choirs with  
Brass ensemble

## APRIL 12

**DOUBTING THOMAS**  
*John 20:19-29*

**M** 9, 10, 11am  
**Cathedral of the Pines Camp  
Style Worship**  
**SERMON** Pastor Lose  
**MUSIC** Cathedral, Chancel &  
Sanctuary Choirs

**THE GIFT OF SHALOM**  
*John 20:19-23*

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

## APRIL 19

**WHY WRITE A GOSPEL?**  
*John 20:30-31*

**M** 9, 10, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Hammersten  
**MUSIC** Handbell Choir  
**W** 9, 10, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Grangaard  
**MUSIC** Sanctuary Choir

## APRIL 26

**THE GIFT OF SHALOM**  
*John 20:19-23*

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

**DOUBTING THOMAS**  
*John 20:19-29*

**W** 9, 10, 11am  
**Cathedral of the Pines Camp  
Style Worship**  
**SERMON** Pastor Lose  
**MUSIC** Cathedral, Chancel &  
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.

### COVER PHOTO

*Christ's Appearance to Mary Magdalene after the Resurrection* by Alexander Ivanov

# *Easter Hope & Courage*

In just a few days, we will gather to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and, as part of our Easter worship, we will read St. John's account of the first Easter. Amid the many details John shares, there are a few verses right near the end of the story that are particularly meaningful to me. Mary Magdalene has gone to the tomb early Sunday morning. When she finds it empty, she runs to tell the disciples. Two of them race to the empty tomb and, not sure what to make of it, return to their homes. Mary then sees Jesus but doesn't recognize him. When he calls her by name, however, she realizes she is in the presence of the Risen Lord and immediately moves to embrace him. But he says, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

What I appreciate about this exchange is its honesty. Of course Mary wants to embrace her Lord – seeing him alive after witnessing his crucifixion is the most unexpected and joyous moment of her life. Yet Jesus tells Mary that she can't hold on to him, which I suspect was hard to hear. There are so many times, I think, that we wish Jesus would be a little more tangible, a little more concretely present, in our lives. "If only you were here, Jesus, and I could hold on to you, things would be so much easier," we may think.

But Jesus doesn't stop there. He also says he will be ascending to heaven to be, once again, with his Father. And then he adds something significant: "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." We may assume that God is with us, but to the faithful Jews that made up John's original community, hearing Jesus say "my Father and your father, my God and your God" would have been astounding. God is holy and powerful and yet, Jesus asserts, also tender and compassionate. In short, Jesus wants Mary to know that God is most like a loving parent who loves her (and us!) fiercely and so will never abandon her (or us!).

Earlier in John's story, Jesus told the disciples that, once he had ascended to heaven, he would send the Holy Spirit, which he called the comforter, advocate, guide, and defender. So while Jesus tells Mary that she can't hold on to him in this moment, it's precisely so that the Spirit can be present to all believers at all times, granting them the hope and courage to move forward in faith. And, indeed, Mary then goes to the disciples, tells them "I have seen the Lord," and in this way shares with them the hope and courage Jesus' resurrection creates.

These verses struck me because of how difficult a year we have been through... and a sense that those challenges – and the anxiety and fear that come with them – are not yet over. In particular, there are three things from this scene that may help us not simply face the anxiety of the moment but be renewed in a sense of Easter hope and courage:

1. Challenges are far easier to face together than alone. Mary is comforted by Jesus; she in turn comforts and encourages the other disciples. When feeling anxious or overwhelmed, take advantage of the worship services, classes, fellowship, and service opportunities Mount Olivet has to offer. We are stronger together. Always!
2. Jesus has promised us his presence in and through the Holy Spirit. Don't be afraid to ask God, as Pastor Kalland likes to say, for a "double-dose of the Holy Ghost" when you are anxious. Fear is not faithless, but rather a part of the faithful life. And courage isn't the absence of fear, but rather moving forward in spite of it. Pray for courage, confidence, and compassion for yourself and for those around you. They are among God's favorite gifts to give!
3. Invite others to share in the community and faith we enjoy at Mount Olivet. While we are not perfect, we are one of the few remaining communities where people who may think and vote differently from each other still come together in worship and service. Trust me that no one struggling with the challenges of the day will resent or take offense to you saying, "I feel that way sometimes, too, and when I do I find comfort at my church. Would you like to come with me?" We are in this together, and there's no better opportunity to invite folks to share the treasure we have in our faith than through our Holy Week and Easter.

Yes, it is a challenging time. Yet we don't have to face these challenges – or the anxieties they bring – alone as we gather together to pray for, reclaim, and share the Easter hope and courage Jesus promises us all.

See you in Church!



*Pastor Lose*

**DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR**



# THE IMPACT OF YOUR GENEROSITY

On Saturday, February 28, 400 Mount Olivet members worked in six different shifts to pack 94,000 – yes, 94-“thousand”! – meals that will be distributed throughout the Twin Cities metro to people facing food shortages. We were able to do that through a partnership with Meals from the Heart, a Stillwater-based not-for-profit that has been, as they like to say, “making it easy for people to make a difference” for nearly 20 years.



# MEALS FROM THE HEART®

Meals from the Heart has grown significantly – more than 250% over the last five years – in response to the growth of food insecurity across our communities. In fact, currently 1 in 5 Minnesota families cannot afford the food they need and so rely on local food shelves and other parts of our emergency food system. The greatest growth in need has been among seniors, age 65+. And with additional restrictions to the SNAP (food stamp) program, that need will only grow.

Meals from the Heart consults with both chefs and nutritionists to make sure meals are both healthy and tasty. After they were packed by our volunteers, they were distributed to food shelves across the metro area. In 2024, more than 1.7 million meals were packed and delivered, and we feel fortunate to be able to work with such dedicated and experienced partners.

It costs about \$16,500 to host an event like this, which means that, because of the bulk purchasing power of our partners and through the energetic help of our volunteers, each meal costs only 17 cents to provide. The day, as any of our 400 volunteers will attest, was fun, energetic, and a wonderful testament to what we can accomplish together. Thank you to all of our volunteers, and thank you to all those who have donated – and continue to donate! – to our Hunger Relief efforts. Donations are still being received at [mtolivet.org/giving](http://mtolivet.org/giving).

# DO YOU KNOW WHO NICODEMUS IS?



If you happened to be at Church on February 1, you probably do know, as Pastor Olson Popp (Mpls) and Pastor Freeman (West) preached wonderful sermons on this teacher of Israel who meets Jesus under the cover of darkness to ask him questions. It’s in the context of this conversation that Jesus says – in what is probably the best-known Bible verse in the world – “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” (John 3:16).

What I find interesting about Nicodemus is that while he fades back into the night after his conversation with Jesus, he reappears at two important points. First, in chapter 7, the Pharisees are debating whether to arrest Jesus because of his growing popularity when Nicodemus reminds them, “Our law does not judge people without first giving them a hearing to find out what they are doing, does it?” (John 7:51). Then, he appears one more time, on this occasion to assist with Jesus’ burial (John 19:39).

What I love about John’s depiction of Nicodemus is that, while a vibrant faith sometimes emerges all at once, often it doesn’t come quite so easily and takes time. In the case of Nicodemus, his faith grows over three years and leads him from a curious inquirer, to a person who is willing to raise questions about how people plan to treat Jesus, to someone who openly declares his support for this fallen rabbi. For this reason, Nicodemus might serve as an example to many of us who, even in the light of Easter, still continue to find our way.

— PASTOR LOSE



## LIFE & GROWTH

**FEB 14 - MAR 16**

### BAPTISMS

**Rachel Nicole Blundy**

**Gabriella Jade Blundy**

*daughter of Rachel and Daniel*

**Jayden Michael Blundy**

*son of Rachel and Daniel*

**Warren Arthur Davis**

*son of Laura and Logan*

**Cecilia Rosalie Eich**

*daughter of Lauren and Zachary*

**Avery Hunter-Hanson**

*daughter of Brenda and Peter*

**Dagney Johnson**

*daughter of Alla and Micah*

**Caden John Kelly**

*son of Alyssa and Robert*

**Margaret Sylvan Rohman**

*daughter of Victoria and Eric*

**Melanie Woods Sayre**

*daughter of Rebecca and Zachary*

**Nora Elizabeth Schultz**

*daughter of Megan and Jack*

**Cian Alexander Snyder**

*son of Kelly and Eric*

**Wyatt Wesley John Swenson**

*son of Britta and Scott*

**Gregg Allen Teeter**

**Dawn Marie Teeter**

**Walker Tibbits**

*son of Amanda; Brooke and Darren*

**Fiona June Van Sloun**

*daughter of Tanya and Keith*

**Cameron Francis Wotschke**

*son of Stephanie and Daniel*

**Sawyer Lois Woulf**

*daughter of Emma and Taylor*

### DEATHS

**Shirley M. Beckman**

**Jean M. Manke**

**Vivikka Niehaus**

**Irid S. Richards**

**Mary E. Strand**

**Kurts D. Strelnieks**

**Carol L. Young**

## DEVOTION

In Gospel of John, the resurrection unfolds with confusion and mistaken identity. Mary stands weeping outside the tomb, certain that death has had the final word. And then—the risen Christ says her name: ‘Mary.’ Jesus calls her, and everything changes. Grief turns to recognition. Despair becomes devotion. She runs to the others with the first Easter sermon: “I have seen the Lord.”

It is a simple sentence. No polished theology. No airtight argument. Just sharing her experience.

This spring as we’ve read John’s gospel, we’ve been invited to notice signs, to encounter God’s glory hidden in water, bread, light, and love. Easter sharpens that vision. The risen Jesus is still speaking. Still stepping into locked rooms. Still breathing peace.

Mary’s proclamation is not the end of the story; it is the beginning of the church’s life. We stand downstream of her witness. We, too, are sent to say where we have seen the Lord.

Where has Christ called your name? In forgiveness offered? In courage you did not know you had? In a meal shared, a prayer whispered, a hope restored?

This Easter, may we become a people who dare to speak it aloud: We have seen the Lord. And in that witness, may others glimpse resurrection life among us.

— PASTOR CIESLIK



## VISION PARTNERS: YOUR LEGACY AND MOUNT OLIVET’S MISSION

Vision Partners are a community of individuals whose generosity extends far beyond their lifetimes. Through a planned gift, Vision Partners help ensure that the mission and ministries of Mount Olivet Lutheran Church—and its affiliated organizations—continue to thrive for generations to come. Their thoughtful commitment, whether through a will, trust, beneficiary designation, or other planned gift, strengthens our foundation and supports meaningful ministry well into the future.

If you have already included Mount Olivet in your estate plans, or if you’re curious about how a planned gift could reflect your values and support the ministries you love, we would be honored to talk with you. Please reach out to Peter Youngdahl, Director of Development, at [pyoungdahl@mtolivet.org](mailto:pyoungdahl@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2213.

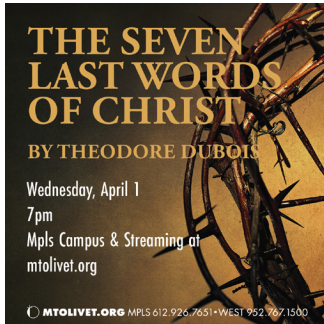


# Holy Week & Easter

As with everything else in the Gospel of John, Holy Week is different. Palm Sunday is less the planned-out entrance into Jerusalem that it is in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and more of a spontaneous reaction to Jesus' recent raising of Lazarus that has catapulted Jesus to fame. While there is a "last supper" in John, there is no "institution of the Lord's Supper." Instead, Jesus washes his disciples' feet to show them an example of service. John's story of Good Friday supplies three of the seven words Jesus says from the cross and each, in its own way, sounds less like the word of a forsaken and anguished prophet and more of a battlefield commander. Holy Saturday is marked by the return of Nicodemus, a character from early in the story, who helps bury Jesus in a garden. And Easter Sunday presents not a group of women going to the tomb but one, Mary Magdalene, who unintentionally sets off a foot race between two disciples determined to understand what has happened. Later in that same scene, Mary mistakes Jesus for a gardener, all of which calls to mind that first garden, Eden, where the human story begins. Just so, Jesus is the one who initiates a new story for the human race, one marked by grace for all.

John introduces the events of Holy Week with a sentence that is as moving as it is revealing: "Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. *Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.*" That is what Jesus' passion is about for John. Love. Not struggle or revenge or appeasing God's judgment or substituting for sinful humans. But love. Love that is stronger than death, love that ultimately brings us through death into new life. So come out as often as you can to the services and events of Holy Week to immerse yourself in a story that is, quite truly, the greatest love story of all.

# JOIN US!



## THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST CONCERT

Wednesday, April 1, 7pm, Mpls Campus and livestreamed at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org)

This Holy Week musical event is a beloved tradition for many during the Lenten season. *The Seven Last Words of Christ* by Théodore Dubois is a sacred cantata, based on the final words spoken by Jesus on the cross. Each musical movement is enhanced with a short meditation by a pastor. This deeply expressive and dramatic work features Cathedral Choir and alumni, soloists, and orchestral and organ accompaniment. All Cathedral Choir alumni are invited to join in the chorus of singers and are welcome to meet in the Youth Center at 5pm to socialize before the concert. The adult presence in this concert is important musically and serves as a powerful witness to our high school choir. Alumni, if you plan to sing, please meet in the Mpls Campus Rehearsal Hall at 6pm.



## LIVING LORD'S SUPPER

Thursday, April 2, 7pm, Mpls & West Campuses, and livestreamed at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org)

Step into a powerful experience of Holy Communion, commemorating the night Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. Witness a live portrayal of this sacred moment, then come forward to receive the bread and cup, renewing your commitment to walk in the way of Christ. This service is significant for young people and children, offering a vivid visual experience that brings the story to life. Join us!



## GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 3

Mpls Campus: 8am, \*12noon, 5pm, & \*7pm (Tenebrae service)

West Campus: 5pm & 7pm (Tenebrae service)

*\*these services will be livestreamed*

These deeply meaningful communion services provide a sacred time to remember and reflect on Christ's sacrifice, given for us through His crucifixion. The 7pm Tenebrae service, also known as the Service of Shadows, offers a profoundly moving experience as we listen once more to the story of Jesus' journey to the cross. This solemn service invites reflection and reverence (please note that at 7pm communion will not be served).



## EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 5

7, 8, 9, 10, & 11 am, Mpls & West Campuses, and livestreamed at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org)

Mpls Campus: Pastor Lose; West Campus: Pastor Dixon

Celebrate the joy and triumph of Easter in a jubilant worship service honoring the risen Christ! With uplifting scripture, a meaningful message, stirring choral anthems, and the majestic sounds of brass and orchestra, we will unite in worship, raising our voices to proclaim the victorious message: "Christ is risen indeed!" Let this be a time of renewal, hope, and rejoicing in the promise of new life in Christ.

*Chancel Garden plants can be picked up on Sunday, April 5, from 11am-12:30pm or on Tuesday, April 7, from 10am-12noon.*



# MOUNT OLIVET GALA

## *Invest in Hope*

## TICKETS ARE ON SALE UNTIL APRIL 20

Thursday, May 7, Open House 5-9pm, Program 7pm, Oak Ridge Country Club, \$40

Celebrate all of the Mount Olivet Affiliate Ministries! This festive night will include a short program at 7pm. Your ticket includes a program, food, and entertainment. A cash bar that also accepts credit cards will be available.

Casual cocktail attire is suggested. Complimentary valet parking as well as self parking available.

To purchase a ticket, visit [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) or contact Laurie Hancer at [lhancer@mtolivet.org](mailto:lhancer@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2267.

## FUND-A-NEED

Each of our Mount Olivet affiliates has identified specific areas of need within their various programs. Our Fund-A-Needs are an amazing and easy way to learn more about the valuable work each affiliate provides through your donation. We invite you to find a cause that touches your heart and contribute whatever amount you are able. Please visit [mtolivet.org/events/gala](http://mtolivet.org/events/gala) to donate to one (or all!) of the items described below and on page 9. It's incredible to see what we can accomplish when we all work together!

### CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES CAMP (COP)

**NEW BLEACHERS:** At Cathedral of the Pines Camp, softball isn't just a game—it's a beloved daily ritual that brings campers together in joy, teamwork, and spirited camp tradition. New bleachers will ensure fellow campers, counselors, and friends have a comfortable place to gather and cheer each other on, strengthening the sense of community that makes camp unforgettable. Each set of bleachers costs \$3,000, helping create a welcoming and vibrant sideline experience for all.

**Total Need: \$6,000**

**NEW ADIRONDACK CHAIRS:** There's nothing quite like sitting in an Adirondack chair at Cathedral of the Pines—taking in the quiet beauty of the North Woods, gazing out over Lake Caribou, and resting in the shadow of the cross. These moments of peace help campers and guests slow down, breathe deeply, and experience God's presence in creation. Your gift supports the purchase of new Adirondack chairs, each costing \$500, ensuring everyone has a comfortable place to enjoy the wonder that makes camp sacred.

**Total Need: \$10,000, 1 Chair = \$500**



## CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER

**NATURE EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS:** Our Nature Education Days invite elementary and middle-school students to experience the wonder of God's creation firsthand. For many, this is a first opportunity to explore a prairie, walk through a marsh, or wander beneath a forest canopy—and to discover a sense of belonging in the natural world. These days are designed to spark curiosity, nurture environmental awareness, and inspire care for the world we share—especially for children with limited access to outdoor education.

**Total Need for 50 Students: \$2,000, 1 Student = \$40**

**POLLINATORS: HONEYBEES AND MONARCH BUTTERFLIES:** Nearly one million honeybees now live in 14 hives on our property, and our monarch waystation provides nourishment and rest along their migration route. This Fund-A-Need supports the care and restoration of these habitats—clearing and maintaining hive areas, providing food for honeybees, and reseeded the monarch waystation with native, pollinator-friendly plants. Together, these efforts strengthen fragile ecosystems and offer moments of beauty and wonder for all who visit.

**Total need: \$4,000**

## MOUNT OLIVET HOME & CAREVIEW HOME

**HOME CHAPEL PARAMENTS:** Our chapel is the heart of our community, a sacred space where residents, families, and staff gather for comfort, reflection, and weekly Sunday worship. We seek to beautify this space with new chapel paraments (fabric draped on altar, pulpit, and lecturn), ensuring that this meaningful experience reflects the spiritual care our residents deserve. Your gift will help renew a space that brings hope and connection to so many. Thank you for helping us honor the faith and spirit of those we serve.

**Total Need: \$2,000**

**SUN SHADE AND UMBRELLAS:** Mount Olivet Home residents love to spend time outdoors on our patios. They enjoy fresh air, conversation, and a sense of connection to the world around them. To make these moments safer and more comfortable, we are seeking support to purchase a new sun shade and umbrellas. Your gift will help provide much needed shade and protection from the elements, ensuring residents can enjoy the beauty of the outdoors with comfort and dignity.

**Total Need: \$8,000**

## MOUNT OLIVET DAY SERVICES

**NEW NURTURE NOOK:** Mount Olivet Day Services is transforming one of its spaces into a quiet soothing room for some of our most vulnerable patients. Help equip the new Nurture Nook with animated therapy animals and dolls, sensory and fidget tools, and thoughtfully curated memory care games and activities.

**Total Need: \$2,000**

## MOUNT OLIVET ROLLING ACRES

**ROLLING ACRES DISCOVER SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS:** Most summer programs aren't equipped to support youth with high-needs disabilities — but Discover Summer is. Our specially trained staff create flexible, individualized experiences where every child is welcomed, supported, and celebrated. Your gift will help fund two scholarships for a week of Discover Summer, giving two youth the opportunity to grow, build confidence, and simply be kids in a place designed just for them.

**Total Need: \$3,000**

**NEW ROLLING ACRES YOUTH CRISIS HOME:** Mount Olivet Rolling Acres is preparing to open the doors to a fourth Youth Crisis Stabilization Home this summer. Across Minnesota, children are waiting in hospital rooms because there aren't enough crisis beds. Mental health professionals agree that with the right support, children can manage and even overcome mental health challenges, growing into healthy, well-adjusted, and thriving adults. Located in Richfield, this home, lovingly named *Horizon House*, will provide residential care for youth ages 5–17 who have a diagnosed mental health condition and are experiencing a crisis.

**Total Need: \$7,000+**

# WHAT DOES A WEDNESDAY NIGHT LOOK LIKE AT MOUNT OLIVET?

Out of every day of the week, I always look forward to Wednesday nights the most. Every Wednesday, I come to church, and I am involved in three things. First, Chancel choir. It's every week from 5:45-6:30pm, and it's a really fun opportunity. Especially when we get to sing in church on Sunday mornings. Then, everybody goes down to the Youth Center for dinner. I especially love when we have pizza. My brother, Sam, is always there serving dinner, and it's fun to see him. He will always make jokes about me or says something funny when I go up to get dinner. After that, at 7pm, all the middle schoolers go into the Fellowship Hall for Confirmation large group. It lasts about 30 minutes. There is always a pastor there who leads us. Then, we get to my favorite part of the night – small groups! Each small group has two leaders, and we can talk about anything we want. My leaders are Anna and Samantha. We always talk about highs and lows of the week, which is really nice. After that, I hang in the youth office while I wait for Sam to be done with Cathedral Choir. I love Wednesdays at church!

**COCO WEBB, 7TH GRADER AT ST LOUIS PARK**

Hi, my name is Sam, and Coco is my younger sister. Wednesdays are always a good day for me because of church. I'm involved in choir and I help serve dinner most nights. I always get to church at the same time as my sister, so I'm always there early. Choir starts at 7, and goes until 8:15. I really like choir because it's a great opportunity to see friends from church during the school week, and spend some time together. I also like singing for the church on Sundays. Church is a place where I always feel welcomed and it means a lot to me. Overall, I really like spending time at church on Wednesdays and I know my sister does too, which means a lot to me.

**SAM WEBB, SOPHOMORE AT ST LOUIS PARK**

Wednesday nights are one of the best parts about being involved in Mount Olivet for both of us. The vibe at the West Campus, especially on Wednesday nights, is unmatched and it's a day we look forward to all week. We both are involved in our respective choirs, Cathedral Choir for Murphy, and Chancel Choir for Avery. In these choirs we have fun singing songs as a group, having a blast with friends, and meeting new people. Murphy is also on Mount Olivet Board (MOB) and Avery is in Confirmation. We always get to see each other at dinner time and it's a fun way to connect as siblings and with others. Murphy's favorite part of the night is seeing all of his friends, and Avery's is singing in the choir with her friends. Mount Olivet overall has a great environment and is a place where we love to spend our time together and with each other's friends.

**MURPHY AND AVERY EWASIUK, SOPHOMORE AND 7TH GRADER AT CHANHASSEN**



## WORD WITH YOUR PASTORS

### "I AM": JESUS IN JOHN'S GOSPEL

Four 10:30-11:30am sessions:  
Wednesdays at Mpls or  
Thursdays at West; also  
available via videos.

**APRIL 8/9:** *Why does Jesus  
talk so much about himself?*

Taught by Pastor Lose

**APRIL 15/16:** *I Am the  
Bread of Life*, John 6

Taught by Pastor Olson Popp

**APRIL 22/23:** *I Am the  
Good Shepherd*, John 9-10

Taught by Pastor Grangaard

**APRIL 29/30:** *I Am the True  
Vine*, John 15

Taught by Rev. Dr. Latini

In the Gospel of John, Jesus speaks some of the most beautiful and provocative words in all of Scripture, each beginning with the phrase "I AM." These short declarations are far more than spiritual metaphors or memorable one-liners. They are windows into Jesus' identity, the heart of his mission, and the kind of life he has come to give us. Come ready to read closely, reflect prayerfully, and listen for Jesus' voice speaking into our lives today: **I am.**

# 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.

### **JOHN 20:24-29: RESURRECTION IS NOT REVERSAL - DOUBTING THOMAS**

Tuesday, April 7, 6:30-7:30pm, West Campus  
Rehearsal Hall

Thomas wasn't there when Jesus first appeared to the disciples. So when the other disciples tell him they had indeed seen the Lord...he doesn't believe them.

Thomas is known for his doubt, but nowhere in John's story is he referred to as Doubting Thomas. Rather, he is known for needing to know, needing to see. The last time he saw his Lord was on the cross, dead with nails marked in his hands and a spear in his side. For Thomas, and for us, Jesus really died on the cross. If the resurrection is real, it must include Jesus' wounds. Thomas teaches us an important truth: Resurrection is not reversal. It is not going back or avoiding the heartbreak. It is life on the other side of death. In this class we will dive deep into this well-known story and, like Thomas, behold our Lord and our God, wounds and all.

— PASTOR GRANGAARD

### **MATTHEW 28, LUKE 24, JOHN 20-21, MARK 16: JUST THE BEGINNING...**

Tuesday, May 5, 6:30-7:30pm, Mpls Campus Room 207

We tend to think of the Bible as sharing stories of what happened in the past, stories about God's activity in the life of Israel and the early church "back then." But far from presenting a history of past events, Scripture has a different goal – to confront us with the person and claims of the living God today! There are few places that exemplify the "present-tense" impact of Scripture better than the closing verses of the four Gospels. We'll look at each of these passages together to get a sense of Scripture's aim, purpose, and goal of drawing us into the "never-ending story" of God's work to love, bless, and save the world, and to do that, in part, through us!

— PASTOR LOSE

LIVING THE MESSAGE 2025-2026

**STORIES  
THAT  
SHAPE  
US**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, GO TO  
MTOLIVET.ORG/EDUCATION OR  
CONTACT KATIE STEVENSON AT  
KATIES@MTOLIVET.ORG OR 612.767.2232.**



## HORIZON HOUSE: EXPANDING HOPE FOR YOUTH IN CRISIS

In December 2025, Mount Olivet Rolling Acres (MORA) reached an exciting milestone with the purchase of a new home dedicated to serving youth in crisis. As an affiliate of Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, MORA continues to live out our shared calling to serve neighbors with compassion, dignity, and excellence.

The need is urgent. Across Minnesota, children and teens are facing unprecedented mental health challenges. Families in crisis often struggle to find safe, supportive options because there are not enough specialized programs to meet the growing demand. This new home, lovingly named **Horizon House**, is part of our response. Because of a prior relationship with the former owner, who approached MORA about taking over the site, we were able to purchase the home below its appraised value.

Horizon House is located in Richfield, near one of MORA's Youth Crisis Stabilization Homes. Remaining in the Richfield School District was a priority, as the district has been a strong partner in helping youth maintain educational stability during difficult times. While the purchase is complete, important work remains. The home was previously used as a group residence for individuals with disabilities and was designed for shared living, making it well suited for transition into a Youth Crisis Stabilization Home. In the months ahead, **Horizon House** will undergo renovations to create a safe, welcoming, therapeutic environment tailored to adolescents experiencing mental health crises.

We are actively raising funds to complete remodeling, furnish the home, and prepare for opening, with the goal of welcoming youth by June 2026. Every new bed represents hope. Every prepared room offers safety. Every trained staff member reflects healing care grounded in dignity and respect.

As we celebrate this milestone, we recognize the need continues to grow. Your prayers, generosity, and partnership make it possible for youth to receive life-changing care close to home. Though MORA operates as an independent nonprofit, it remains deeply rooted in the faith and generosity of the Mount Olivet community.

Together, we are ensuring that when a young person needs help most, a place of hope and healing is ready to welcome them. To learn more about how to support this, please contact us.

**Mount Olivet Rolling Acres** provides person-centered services for children, adults, and seniors with disabilities and mental health needs.

For more information visit our website [moracares.org](http://moracares.org) or contact [development-staff@mtolivet-mora.org](mailto:development-staff@mtolivet-mora.org).

### SAVE THE DATE!

**Masterpieces at the Manor**

**Sunday, October 25, 3pm**

**Edward Anne Estate at Bavaria Downs**

Masterpieces at the Manor is an elegant fundraising event celebrating the creativity and spirit of the residents and staff of MORA.

# GOOD Things

So many good things are happening at, in, and through Mount Olivet. In every corner of our church, seen and unseen, God is shaping lives, strengthening faith, and drawing us deeper into community. From the preaching and teaching of God's Word to the acts of service that fill ordinary days with extraordinary meaning, our ministries continue to bear beautiful fruit. These good things aren't limited to a single program or season; they're woven into the very fabric of who we are as a congregation.

Here are a few of the good things happening at, in, and through Mount Olivet because of YOU: the generous, faithful members of Mount Olivet. Thank you!

- On February 28, 400 volunteers **prepared 94,000 meals to be shared locally** through Meals from the Heart.
- Sixth graders at West Campus named **"being at church tonight"** as the best part of their week while learning about Jesus and sharing highs and lows together.
- 100 Young in Heart & Friends **gathered on one of the coldest days of the year**, to hear Pastor Lose speak on legacy and share a warm meal and community.
- A faithful Tuesday volunteer crew supports the Worship & Music department by **repairing music, mending robes, checking candles, and caring for one another** with coffee, birthdays, and compassion.
- The Conference & Retreat Center **extends God's wide welcome** to a variety of groups (over 7,400 people last year)!
- A 10-year-old child **asked to become a Mount Olivet member** for Christmas!
- An online worshiper from Texas wrote to say **our Sunday online service blessed their entire congregation** when their church was closed due to weather.
- The halls of both campuses **overflow on Wednesday nights** with 6th Grade Starter, Confirmation, choirs, and youth gatherings. (Keep an eye out for an upcoming video about the "good chaos" of Wednesday nights!)
- As we approach the seventh anniversary of Community Dinners, more than **253,000 meals have been distributed!** Recipients say picking up a meal is often a highlight of their week.
- Preschoolers race to the church's front door, **eager to start their joy-filled day at school!**
- Pastor Lose led an **intergenerational Bible study with 200+ people**, diving into the Gospel of John and reminding us that it's packed with comfort, confidence, and second chances for all of us!

Good things indeed...and so many more every day...thanks to YOU!

KATIE STEVENSON, *Director of Stewardship*

## MAKE A GIFT TODAY!

To make a one-time gift or set up a recurring gift to Mount Olivet and its ministries:

Scan the QR Code to the right

Visit [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) under GIVING

Contact Tricia Lerohl-Morgan at [tricial@mtolivet.org](mailto:tricial@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2255

**THANK YOU!**

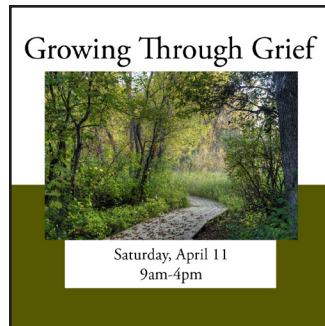


## FEATURED EVENTS

### GROWING THROUGH GRIEF

Saturday, April 11, 9am-4pm,  
Conference & Retreat Center,  
\$50-\$100

Whether you are grieving the death of a loved one, severed relationships, the loss of dreams, or more, this day retreat will provide an opportunity for you to grow and heal. Experientially focused, the day includes options for processing grief through music, art, movement, prayer, meditation, and time in nature. In addition, participants can meet briefly with a counselor, spiritual director, or pastor for support and consultation. A sliding scale fee allows you to pay what you can. Cost includes programming, lunch, beverage/snack bar throughout the day, use of retreat center amenities (whirlpool, sauna, trails, labyrinth, etc.), and tax. Register at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org).



### CAREER & CALLING: AI AS A TOOL TO BUILD YOUR CAREER FUTURE

Tuesday, April 14, 5:30-7pm,  
Mpls Campus, Free

Join us for an in-person event to learn how Artificial Intelligence is present and how to use it to your advantage in managing your career. AI has rapidly become an essential part of your career development strategy and achieving success in today's job market. We will be led by Cherie Anderson, an accomplished facilitator and trainer for this highly interactive session to learn how AI tools are becoming key to achieving your goals. 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. Register at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org).



## NEW MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES

### NEW MEMBER LUNCHEONS

Sunday, April 26, 12-1:30pm, West Campus

Sunday, May 3, 12-1:30pm, Mpls Campus

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

### NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Sunday, May 17, Mpls & West Campuses

New members will be recognized during worship services.

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



# UPCOMING AT MOUNT OLIVET

## APRIL 2026

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

### **CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP**

**Thursday, April 2 & Thursday, April 16, 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, April 21, 12noon-1:30pm, Mpls Campus, \$10**

Join us for Part 2 of Pastor Grangaard's time in Jerusalem. She will guide us from Christmas to Easter with images, stories, and reflections. Pastor Grangaard and her family lived in Jerusalem from 2015-2019 while serving through Global Service with the ELCA.

### **GATHERING IN PRAYER AND SONG FOR PEACE AND HEALING**

**Tuesday, April 21, 6pm, Mpls Campus**

Enjoy a time of prayer and song, a quiet space to breathe, to be comforted, and to receive hope for the days ahead. Through scripture, prayer, and music, we will listen for God's steady presence and be strengthened to carry on with courage and compassion.

### **FIRST YEARS WITHOUT THEM**

**Thursdays, April 23 through June 11, 2:30-4pm, Mpls Campus, \$100**

Come find healing in the first years following the death of a loved one. Sara Watne, MA, LPCC leads this support group which utilizes contemplative practices, poetry, film clips and discussion to encourage participants along their path of mourning and reconciliation.

### **FLYING SOLO: MIA'S ART IN BLOOM**

**Thursday, April 23, 6:45-9pm, Minneapolis Institute of Art**

Join us for a guided tour of the MIA's annual Art in Bloom Celebration with MIA docent, Susie McKitterick. Following the tour, we will gather for a bite to eat at a nearby restaurant.

### **ART CLASS: PAINT LIKE VAN GOGH'S SUNFLOWERS**

**Monday, April 27, 6pm, Mpls Campus, \$40**

In this class you will be creating an acrylic painting of Van Gogh's famous *Sunflowers* on an 8 x 10 inch canvas. You will learn a bit of history about him and his style of painting as you follow step-by-step instructions.

## LOOKING AHEAD!

### **COP 11 O'CLOCK ACTIVITY FOR CURRENT 2ND, 3RD, & 4TH GRADERS**

**Saturday, May 2, 10am-2pm, Mpls Campus, \$20**

2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders are invited to come hang out with the 2026 Camp Staff, some of the counselors, and other campers. We will have Bible class, play games, and more! Please pack a nut-free lunch - snacks will be provided.

### **SPRING COMMUNION SERVICE & LUNCHEON**

**Saturday, May 2, 11am-1pm, Mpls Campus**

Please join us for a worship service and Holy Communion, followed by a delicious lunch in Fellowship Hall. This service is designed for members and family who are often unable to come to church. Rides will be provided for those in need of transportation. For more information and to register, please contact Nancy Nelson at [nnelson@mtolivet.org](mailto:nnelson@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2288.

### **MOTHER'S DAY WORSHIP & BRUNCH**

**Sunday, May 10, 9am Worship, Brunch Seating at 10am or 12noon, Conference & Retreat Center**

Celebrate Mom with delicious food, beautiful views, and warm hospitality. Pastor Kalland and Rev. Theresa Latini will lead worship with brunch served at 10am or 12noon. Come for worship and brunch or just brunch.

### **ART CLASS: ALCOHOL INK GARDEN**

**Monday, May 18, 6pm, Mpls Campus, \$45**

Alcohol ink is unpredictable and so much fun to create with. In this class you will learn how to create a simple yet stunning landscape while learning different techniques that create dynamic results.



**MOUNT OLIVET  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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*Easter Sunday*

**APRIL 5**

**MPLS CAMPUS: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 AM**

**WEST CAMPUS: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 AM**

**AND LIVESTREAMED AT [MTOLIVET.ORG](http://MTOLIVET.ORG)**