

MOUNT OLIVET
MESSENGER



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
(10am beginning 5/24)

WATCH THE MPLS
WORSHIP SERVICE AT
MTOLIVET.ORG

9, 10, 11am
(9 & 10am beginning 5/24)

HOLY COMMUNION

8:30 & 11:45am
(8:30am only beginning 5/24)

NURSERY

9, 10, 11am
(9 & 10am beginning 5/24)

MAY 3

PETER
RECOMMISSIONED

John 21, selected verses

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

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

MAY 10

WORD OF LIFE, WORD
OF LIGHT

1 John 1:1-9

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Freeman
MUSIC Cherub, Alleluia,
Hosanna, Chapel &
Sanctuary Choirs

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Grangaard
MUSIC Cherub, Alleluia,
Hosanna, Chapel,
Cathedral &
Sanctuary Choirs

*11am Baccalaureate Sunday at
the West Campus*

MAY 17

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

1 John 4:7-12, 18-21

New Member Sunday

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

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

*11am Baccalaureate Sunday at
the Mpls Campus*

MAY 24

PENTECOST

John 14:15-17, 25-27;
16:12-13a

Summer Hours Begin

M 9, 10am
SERMON Pastor Hammersten
MUSIC Takako Senn, trumpet

W 9, 10am
SERMON Pastor Cieslik
MUSIC Graham Taylor,
trumpet

MAY 31

M 9, 10am
SERMON Pastor Grangaard

W 9, 10am
SERMON Pastor Freeman

LAKE HARRIET

10am
SERMON Pastor Lose
MUSIC Cathedral Choir

SOUTHWEST FARMERS MARKET

Saturdays, beginning May 16, 8:30am-1pm

Mpls Campus Parking Lot

The Southwest Farmers Market, formerly the Fulton Market, will take place on Saturdays from 8:30am-1pm at the Minneapolis Campus parking lot and runs weekly through October 31.

There will be a wide variety of vendors who will offer produce, ready-to-eat foods, pantry items, arts and crafts, and more.

More information, including a vendor list, can be found at neighborhoodrootsmn.org.

COVER PHOTO

Mpls Stained Glass Window

Pentecost Possibilities

Pentecost is often named the “birthday of the Church” because it is the day the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples. There are actually two stories of the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit. The one we know best comes from Acts 2, where St. Luke describes the gift of the Holy Spirit being like tongues of flame descending on the disciples accompanied by a mighty wind. (The next time you are in the Mpls sanctuary, look at the restored stained glass windows at the back of the church for a beautiful illustration of that event.) After receiving the Spirit, they begin proclaiming the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection and countless people came to believe.

The other story comes from the Gospel of John, when Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples on the evening of Easter Sunday (John 20:22). Earlier in John’s story, in a passage we’ll read on Pentecost Sunday (May 24), Jesus talks with the disciples about the Holy Spirit, describing the Spirit as his continued presence with them. At one point Jesus says, “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth” (John 16:13).

I’ve always found it so interesting to think that Jesus didn’t share everything, that there was – and is! – more to come. The disciples then – and now! – can’t handle everything at once. The journey toward truth is ongoing. I think that realization is both humbling – we don’t know all the truth – and exciting – we can continue to grow, develop, and mature under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. There was a time, for instance, when clergy could not marry, or when women were not allowed to exercise ordained leadership. We’re still on the way! What else might the Spirit guide us to understand?

Both of these stories – from Acts and from John – remind us that one of the key attributes of the Holy Spirit is to create possibilities. The story from Acts captures the possibility that those same disciples who were fearfully waiting in the upper room found the courage to preach, first in Jerusalem and eventually to the ends of the known world. And the story in John reminds us that we have not yet arrived, that greater truth, greater maturity, is always possible.

Today, the Holy Spirit continues to bless the Church by helping us see possibilities. 106 years ago, the founding members of Evangelical Mount Olivet Lutheran Church saw the *possibility* of a thriving congregation in southwest Minneapolis. Seventy years ago, Pastor Reuben Youngdahl saw the *possibility* for that church to grow exponentially by expanding its offerings and inviting neighbors to joyful, traditional, and disciplined worship and, a few years later, saw the *possibility* of engaging and helping the larger community by establishing nursing homes, a summer camp, a safe place for those with development disabilities, and more. Forty years ago, Pastor

Paul Youngdahl saw the *possibility* of establishing a conference and retreat center just south of the cities for spiritual renewal and, later, seized upon the possibility to establish a second campus to serve the western suburbs. We have continued to look for possibilities in the development of an all-day, year-round preschool and by offering a full slate of summer day camps. Most recently, we are exploring the *possibility* of creating a community gathering space where people can develop relationships, learn about their neighbor, and get more involved in their community. (For an update on the plans for the 1700 Chapel, see page 8)

This year, Pentecost falls on Sunday, May 24, which also happens to be Memorial Day Sunday and the start of our summer schedule. It caps a busy month of seizing upon, and giving thanks for, the multiple possibilities the Holy Spirit creates and blesses us to see. In particular, we will gather on May 7 for the Mount Olivet Gala, a chance to continue celebrating and supporting the good work of our Affiliated Ministries and the possibilities that the Mount Olivet Home, Careview Home, Day Services, Rolling Acres, Cathedral of the Pines Camp, and the Conference & Retreat Center continue to create for so many. On May 10 (West) and May 17 (Mpls), we will give thanks for the on-going *possibilities* our high school seniors have before them as we bless them with our prayers at our annual Baccalaureate recognition. Also on May 17, we will welcome and give thanks for another wonderful group of new members. In 2025, we welcomed more than 500 new members, and it looks like we’re on track to meet or exceed that mark in 2026.

So what possibilities do you see the Holy Spirit providing? Perhaps the possibility of inviting a friend to share some of what you have discovered and enjoy at Mount Olivet. Or the possibility of deepening your faith through summer mid-week worship at our Conference and Retreat Center. Or the possibility of getting more engaged with Mount Olivet’s ministries to the community by volunteering for one of our many service opportunities. You see, the Holy Spirit isn’t done yet and, indeed, the *possibilities* for you to grow in your faith at Mount Olivet are nearly endless. So scan the rest of this issue to see what’s happening, spend time in prayer, and open yourself to some of the manifold *Pentecost Possibilities* before you!

See you in Church!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR



EASTER FOR ALL

Easter for All, started over 30 years ago by Pastor Linton Scott and Pastor Mary Brown, is a service ministry that continues to flourish today. Easter for All unites Mount Olivet with local ministry partners to provide Easter baskets for neighbors across the metro. Along with Pastor Scott, Community Emergency Service (CES), Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People (VEAP), Love in the Name of Christ (Love INC), Bountiful Basket, Second Harvest Heartland, and The Sannah Foundation, hundreds of volunteers prepare baskets and spaces, deliver food and gifts, and meet new neighbors and friends through this great event. Generous monetary donations allow for each delivery to provide four meals for a family of four, and a treat basket for each of the children.

A very special thank you to our volunteer leaders – Mary Jo Huntley, Sandy Souba, Nicole Ensrud, Mary Burdorf, Corrine and Milt Haugen, and Victoria Circle at the West Campus, and Monica Kremer, Bruce Hinks, and Faith and Richard Wisland, at the Minneapolis Campus – who make this such a special event for our congregation year after year!

Thank you for sharing life and hope in the name of the Risen Christ!



LIFE & GROWTH

MAR 17 - APR 15

BAPTISMS

Nolan Matthew Czarniak

son of Stephanie and Matthew

Boden Kiley Erickson

son of Nikki and Bryn

June Kiley Erickson

daughter of Nikki and Bryn

Kieran Kiley Erickson

son of Nikki and Bryn

Cole Thomas Hustad Hester

son of Kathleen and Derek

Lainey Lorraine LeClaire

daughter of Michelle and Caleb

Leo Robert Leighton

son of Anna and Rob

Vivian Grace Nordling

daughter of Taylor and Garrett

Benjamin Carl Notermann

son of Cristina and Anthony

DEATHS

Nancy C. Anderson

Robert N. Barsness

Michael S. Cox

Beverly J. Ekola

Donald D. Erickson

Robert J. Hokanson

Joyce M. Lindeman

Ben M. Presley

Virginia M. Schoen

Gary D. Smith

Ray C. Witter

DEVOTION

It is Spring! Alleluia!

Seasonally speaking, I'm not sure there's a more hopeful time of the year. The dismal browns and grays and strewn debris of early spring are but a fading memory. We revel in the popping chartreuse of the willows, the vibrant yellow of forsythia, and the romance of peonies. Creeks are flowing, baby ducklings huddle together for warmth with their soft peeps echoing across the water, and goslings are still little, yellow, adorable balls of fuzz. Spring is a season of hope, wonder and tiny miracles.

It has been a long, dark winter. Sometimes the darkness and debris are so outsized that it takes a while for the promise of new life and light and growth to really sink in...with roots deep enough for us to believe, anyway.

And that is when we need the promise of God's redeeming, transformational, all-encompassing love the most.

If the hope and promise of spring has yet to hit your heart, remember the words of the psalmist: "For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us."

—PASTOR HAMMERSTEN



MOUNT OLIVET DAY CAMPS

Mount Olivet Day Camps have openings in the camping sessions listed below. Check your schedule, invite a friend or two, and join us for a busy, fun, and exciting week at day camp! Please contact Coordinator of Day Camps, Kristin Olson, with questions at kolson@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2246.

MPLS CAMPUS

Splash into Summer: June 8-12

God's Kid's Sing: June 15-19

Treasure Island: July 6-10

WEST CAMPUS

Cooking Week: July 6-10

Imagination Creation: July 20-24

MIDDLE SCHOOL AT THE MPLS CAMPUS

Mini Camp: June 9-11

Mini Camp: June 23-25

Summertime Players!: July 13-17

Mini Camp: August 17-19



LIVING THE MESSAGE

STORIES THAT SHAPE US

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

Final class in this series

Watch for upcoming info about the 2026-2027 series which begins in October.

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

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



TIME WELL SPENT

“I enjoy learning through the Living the Message classes. The pastors provide biblical insights such as historical context, language translations, and broader themes throughout the rest of the Bible that would have taken me years to understand. At times, I can find the Bible daunting. This, combined with the limited time I have as a dad and husband, make these classes even more important to me. I don’t want to miss out on the messages and stories the Lord is sharing with me, which will ultimately help me be a better dad, husband, and friend.”

—JACOB HERD, Mount Olivet Member

MOUNT OLIVET BOOK DISCUSSIONS

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

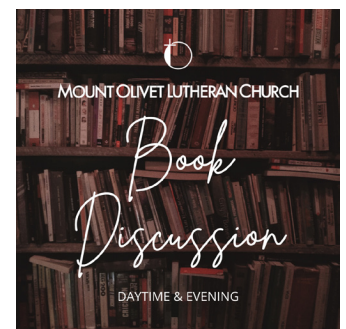
EVENING: 7-8:30pm the 2nd Wednesday of the month

Both held in the Mpls Campus Library

UPCOMING BOOKS:

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

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



FOR MORE INFORMATION 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.

THE STIGMA OF ADULT DAY CARE

Did you know that there are over 143 adult day care centers throughout the state of Minnesota? While less commonly known than assisted living, nursing homes, and memory care residences, adult day care is often an unknown or overlooked option for senior care. Adult day care allows your loved ones to stay in their home and community longer, enabling them to have a sense of independence.

However, an uphill battle all adult day care centers face is the stigma. When an average person imagines adult day care, they usually describe seniors sitting bored in a large room with a television playing in the background. That is a misconception. A day with the remarkable program staff at Mount Olivet Day Services is one of engaging stimulation, socialization, and recreation. A typical day with us includes a morning chat, daily exercise, reading off current news and events, arts and crafts, music, and more. Participants play an active role in developing the monthly calendar of activities and in deciding on weekly field trips.

Not only is adult day care great for the participants, but it reaps numerous benefits for caregivers and families: respite. A program like ours allows caregivers to reclaim their time. We even offer free monthly caregiver support group meetings in collaboration with Mount Olivet Homes. Having that time to yourself is a relief while knowing your loved one is being well taken care of during the day. Curious to see it yourself? Feel free to stop by anytime Monday through Friday or call Alysha, the Marketing and Admissions Director, at 612.413.7500 to schedule a tour!



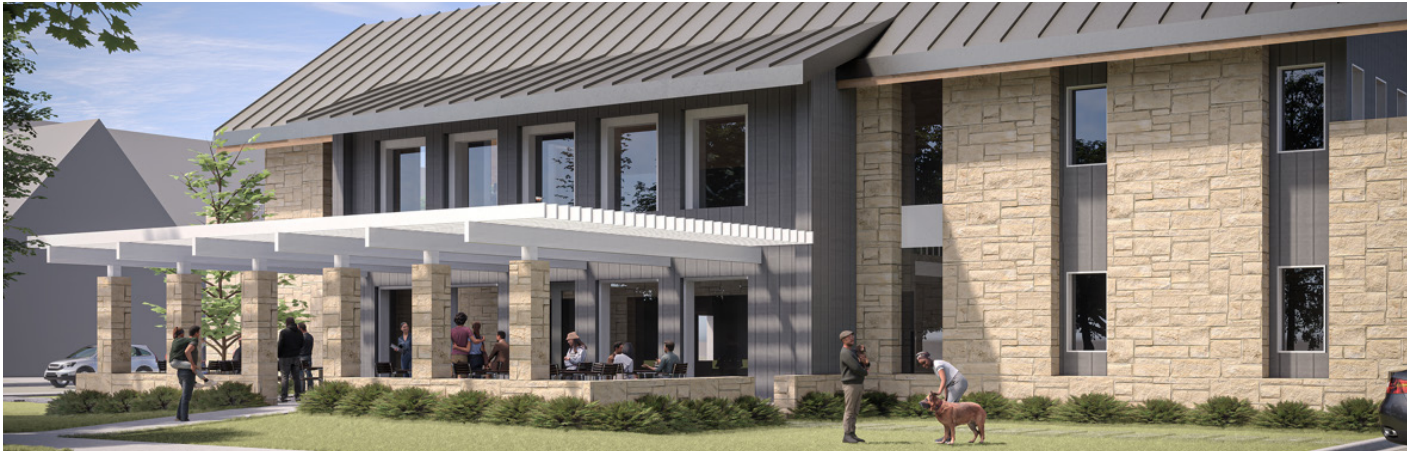
These photos are an inspiration for our reimagined Nature Nook.

INVESTING IN ADULT DAY CARE AND RECREATION

Mount Olivet Day Services (MODS) is an affiliate organization of Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, first opening in September 1995 offering intergenerational day services. Hundreds of adults and children have been cared for and served by MODS. In 2022, a tough decision was made for the facility to serve adults only and to close the childcare program. The humble facility has undergone structural and cosmetic changes since then: building additional bathrooms, optimizing storage, installing new windows, tearing the playground down to build a deck, and investing in an all-abilities, no-slip bathtub. The programming has flourished over the years, growing alongside the facility's improvements.

However, the cosmetic changes are far from over at Mount Olivet Day Services (MODS). The day center is hoping to raise enough funds from the Mount Olivet Gala to give a minor makeover to one of their rooms. One room of particular interest is what is famously called the *Bird Room*. This large room is home to a few recliners and chairs, an electric piano, the Obie gaming system, a television, and most notoriously, a bird aviary. Fear not though, for the birds will remain. What will not remain is the name nor the overall purpose. The *Bird Room* will be renamed as the *Nurture Nook*, offering a relaxing, low-stimulation environment and a varying range of activities. Such activities and an environment are fantastic for serving participants with higher physical, social, and cognitive needs.

The new *Nurture Nook* will be a place of tranquility. Cozy blankets, pillows, an essential oil diffuser, and soft music are only a few of the new additions to name. What the MODS staff are most excited about are sensory bins. Sensory bins are numerous boxes offering a variety of different activities. For example, one bin is a *Baby & Me* bin, filled with a babydoll, a bottle, and baby clothes. Another could be a *Fill the Senses* bin, containing textured fabrics and fidget toys to titillate the senses. With the reimagined *Nurture Nook*, MODS will be better able to serve and care for participants. Stay tuned to the Mount Olivet Day Services Facebook and Instagram for updates on fundraising and renovations.



This photo is an artist's rendering meant to capture the character and quality of the building, not the specific design.

1700 CHAPEL UPDATE

Progress continues on our desire to transform the 1700 Chapel into a community gathering place anchored by a coffee house and brewery. Since the article I shared in the June 2025 *Messenger*, we held a community open house where we had many good questions and suggestions and received overwhelming support for this idea from our neighbors.

Across the summer and fall, we took our time to consider the historical value and structural integrity of the Chapel because we had received notice from the City that it could be a building of potential “historic interest.” After consulting with a historical preservationist, we made a case to the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) that

- a. the building was not historically significant and
- b. there was so much deferred maintenance and water damage that it would be far more expensive – potentially 2x! – to preserve and restore the existing building than it would be to build new.

Further, if we built new, we could design a space better suited to hosting community events that would also be far more environmentally sustainable.

While the HPC did not agree with our assessment and denied our initial application, we appealed to the City Council where we had a more favorable reception and were granted permission to move forward with our plans. During that hearing, we were delighted to learn that forty-five neighbors wrote to the City Council about this project, all in favor of our project.

Next steps include applying for re-zoning and presenting a business plan for approval. After those two steps are complete, we will re-engage the design process. Because we want to re-use as many of the materials as possible – think of that beautiful Kasota stone, all the wonderful wood, and the gorgeous stained-glass windows – no deconstruction will take place until the design phase is complete.

As we go forward, I want briefly to remind us of the values behind this project:

- **Giving Back.** It will be run as a separately incorporated not-for-profit, where all net proceeds will be given back to the community through grants to community groups and organizations (including support for our Affiliates).
- **Community-Focused.** We will design ample space for groups to meet to strengthen our community.
- **Foster Connection.** We want to design a place where people want to meet their neighbors and make meaningful connections so that together we can combat the “pandemic of isolation” that many are experiencing.
- **Environmentally Sustainable.** We plan to reclaim much of the current building and build a new structure that is as environmentally sustainable as reasonably possible.
- **Promote Volunteerism.** We want to heighten awareness of what’s going on in our neighborhoods and provide opportunities for people to get involved, make a difference, and feel more connected to others while doing so.

While there is still a long road ahead with ample time for additional input and evolution, I’m grateful for the support of our neighbors and the City Council and especially grateful for the questions as well as the significant support of our congregation. This is an opportunity, I believe, to demonstrate once again that Mount Olivet is committed to our communities for good!

PASTOR LOSE, *Senior Pastor*



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who support Mount Olivet through your pledges and gifts! To make a one-time gift or set up a recurring gift to Mount Olivet and its ministries:

- Scan the “Give Here” QR Code



- Visit mtolivet.org under GIVING
- Contact Tricia Lerohl-Morgan, Coordinator of Financial Records, at tricial@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2255

CELEBRATING MINISTRY MOMENTS THANKS TO YOU!

Last fall we launched our new Ministry Moment video series—short stories that shine a light on the impact of **your** generosity. Each video celebrates what becomes possible when this congregation joyfully says “Yes!” to supporting the many ministries of Mount Olivet.

We began videoing our Confirmation students packing meals for **Meals from the Heart**, a ministry bringing nourishment and hope to neighbors experiencing food insecurity. Your support helped our students live out their faith in a hands-on, meaningful way.

Our second video turned to the **Mount Olivet Counseling Center**, with Dr. Allison Richards highlighting compassion in action. When tragedy struck Annunciation School in Minneapolis, our Counseling Center was able to respond immediately—because of you. Your giving made timely, caring support possible when it was needed most.

Music has always been one of the great cornerstones of Mount Olivet, and our third video lifts up both our **rich musical heritage and the creative new ways we are engaging people through music**. These traditions (old and new!) deepen our faith, welcome new faces into our building, and help people experience God’s love through song—thanks to you!

Our most recent video focuses on the **“good chaos” of Wednesday nights** with Confirmation and 6th Grade Starter—a wonderful addition at both campuses. Anchored in scripture and story, with fun and creativity built in, this program is a beautiful example of this congregation’s intentional “yes” to equipping our young people with faith and relationships that will last a lifetime.

Every single one of these ministries is made possible by your generosity. Thank you for saying “Yes!” to giving! We are grateful for you!

KATIE STEVENSON, *Director of Stewardship*

P.S. Missed the videos? They are all available to watch at mtolivet.org/stewardship



CONGREGATIONAL CARE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNITY MEAL DRIVERS

Every Thursday Mount Olivet offers a drive-up program for free community meals. We are looking for volunteer drivers who can deliver these meals throughout the metro area for members who are not able to get to church. Community meal drivers are on-call, as needed, Thursday afternoons from 4-5:30pm. This is a flexible opportunity to serve those in need. For more information, please contact Julie Goodman at julieg@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2208.

PRAYER MINISTRY AND PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Mount Olivet's Prayer Ministry and Prayer Shawl Ministry members volunteer to support individuals through prayer and/or the comfort of a shawl knit/crochet with prayer.

Prayer Ministry is comprised of volunteers assigned to daily prayer teams. Congregational Care provides each team member with prayer requests (first names only) that are prayed daily for one week until the next set of prayers are received. Volunteering is extremely flexible with prayer occurring on your own schedule. Quarterly meetings are planned to connect with fellow members. This is a great opportunity to enhance your prayer practice and support others in need.

Prayer Shawl Ministry has provided prayers, support, and comfort to those in need for 20 years at Mount Olivet. Volunteering is flexible as knitting or crocheting prayer shawls can be done at home. Yarn and patterns are provided. Fellowship opportunities are scheduled monthly at both campuses with morning and evening options at the Minneapolis campus. If you don't know how to knit and want to learn, there are amazing teachers in this group!

Mpls Campus: 2nd Monday of each month at 10:30am or 6:30pm

West Campus: 4th Tuesday of each month at 1pm

New members are ALWAYS welcome to Prayer Ministry and/or Prayer Shawl Ministry. For more information and/or interested in joining, contact: Julie Goodman at julieg@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2208, or Stephanie McGinty at smcginty@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2209.

DORCAS SOCIETY

Volunteers who serve on Dorcas Society provide reception support following a funeral or memorial service. As a member of Dorcas Society, you will assist with the preparation and serving of refreshments, as well as setting tables and clearing tables at the end of the reception. Volunteers are led by a Mount Olivet staff member, and involvement time varies each month. A typical Dorcas "shift" ranges from two hours or more, depending on the time a volunteer has availability and the length of the reception. Serving on Dorcas provides a flexible commitment for those interested in volunteering and is greatly appreciated by our funeral families. If you are interested in volunteering for the Dorcas Society, or for more information, please contact Jonna Bundul at 612.767.2257 or jonnab@mtolivet.org.

VOLUNTEER WITH GRACE HOSPICE!

Grace Hospice is a non-profit, faith-based organization, owned by Mount Olivet and Cassia, providing compassionate end-of-life care throughout the Twin Cities metro and surrounding areas. We offer a variety of volunteer roles to support patients and families as they navigate end-of-life. Volunteer opportunities include, but are not limited to, patient companionship, legacy work, sitting vigil, pet visits, caregiver respite, music volunteering, and bereavement support. We ask volunteers to commit to a minimum of two patient visits per month with flexible scheduling. We match volunteers with patients based on shared interests and geographic preferences. Training is provided at orientation and optional monthly education opportunities are offered to all volunteers.

Please visit gracecaring.org/volunteers for more information or to apply. If you have questions, please email us at gracevolunteerservices@gracecaring.org.



SERVING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Youth Ministry at Mount Olivet has a tradition of providing service projects to youth that get them involved in our communities. Below you will read some heartfelt notes from three of our service projects: Adopt-a-Grandparent, MO United, and Circle of Friends.

ADOPT-A-GRANDPARENT

Hi, my name is Nikita and I am involved in Adopt-a-Grandparent (AGP). Adopt-a-Grandparent partners middle school students with residents of the Mount Olivet Home. This program has given me a more positive perspective on life and a strong sense of community. I just really enjoy spending time with everybody there. One of my favorite activities we did with the grandparents was bingo night because everyone was just having such a great time laughing and being themselves. I also really enjoy how you can connect with everybody on a personal level. The dinner after is really fun too, but I mostly love having a place to go after school so that I can just be myself. It's so comforting to know that I have all those people supporting me in and outside of the program. I really recommend it for anyone who wants a community where you hang out with great people and just have a lot of fun.

—NIKITA KIMAL, 7TH GRADER AT EDINA



MO UNITED

I was honored to be asked to write about my experience with Mount Olivet United (MOU) for the past two years, as the program is so meaningful to me. MOU focuses on connecting high schoolers with residents of Mount Olivet Rolling Acres. Every other Tuesday night during the school year we get to interact with these wonderful residents, and it is always a highlight of my week. The residents of Rolling Acres have developmental disabilities and although we are there to brighten their day, they always brighten my day far more. Some of the fun activities we have done with the residents include bowling, glow in the dark yoga, and bingo night. One of my favorite residents, Terri, has had a lasting impact on me. Terri has one of the biggest smiles you will ever see and be careful to never lift your arm up around her or she will try to tickle you. Another highlight of my experience at MOU was our Halloween party when a resident and I by chance wore the same banana costumes and it was a blast. I am so thankful for the community at Mount Olivet and for providing this amazing opportunity. I would highly recommend it to other highschoolers.

—PAYTON EHLEN, SOPHOMORE AT MINNETONKA HIGH SCHOOL

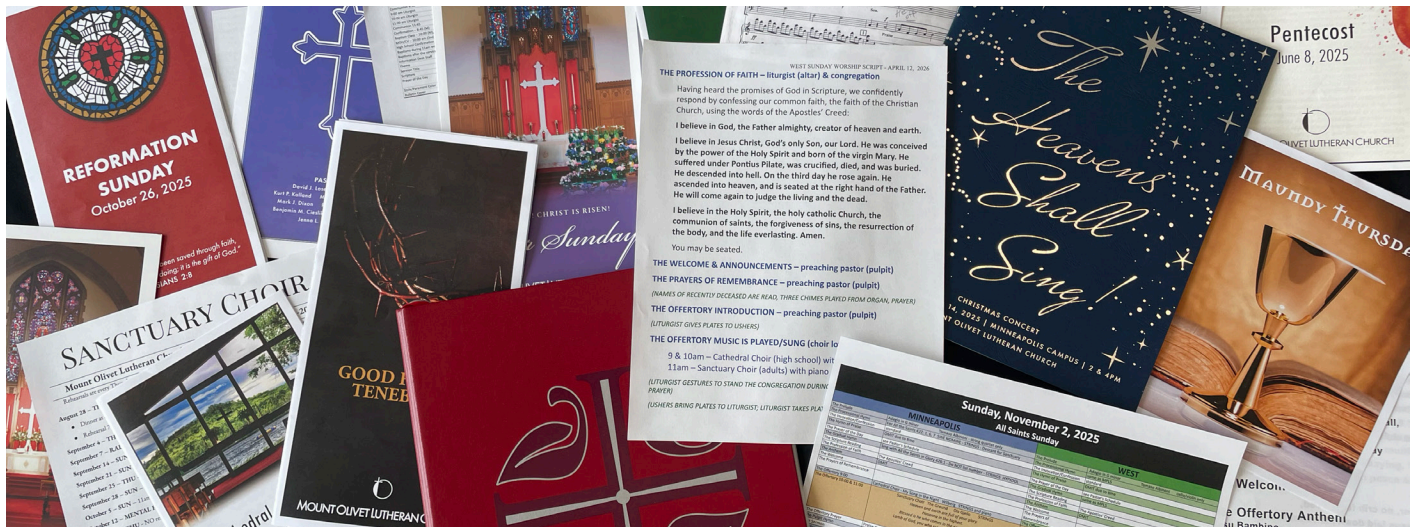


CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Circle of Friends is a volunteer program focused on building meaningful relationships with individuals who have special needs. Through weekly gatherings and activities, participants and volunteers come together to create a welcoming, inclusive community centered on friendship, respect, and fun. Activities can range from games and crafts to simple conversations, but the true purpose is connection. I chose to be involved in COF because I wanted to make a positive difference in people's lives while also growing as a person. What I enjoy most about the program is the genuine joy and kindness that everyone brings. It's a place where differences are embraced, and everyone is valued for who they are. Through my involvement, I try to live out God's love by showing patience, compassion, and acceptance. Whether it's listening, encouraging, or simply spending time together, small actions can have a big impact. COF has taught me that love is best shown through presence and understanding, and it continues to shape how I treat others every day.

—RUBY DUFRESNE, SENIOR AT EDINA HIGH SCHOOL





BEFORE THE BENEDICTION: THE CARE BEHIND WORSHIP

DR. BEVERLY CLAFLIN, *Director of Worship & Music*

Worship at Mount Olivet may feel seamless and almost effortless, but behind the scenes, it begins taking shape months in advance. Long before a single note is sung or a candle lit, the plan is already in motion.

Six to nine months out, pastors begin shaping the big picture vision by choosing themes and scriptures. At the same time, the Music and Worship team is selecting music for special services such as Reformation, All Saints, the Christmas Concert, and Christmas Eve, as well as determining the yearly schedule for all the children, youth, adult, and handbell choirs. Did you know Mount Olivet has 15 choirs between the two campuses? Nearly 800 adults and children sing or ring in a choir at church! Each singer is provided with a robe, and many with individual folders full of music. And of course, no Sunday morning choir is complete without donuts for both our youth and adult singers!

Three to six months out, rehearsals start to ramp up, instrumentalists are hired, and all organists, choirs, and accompanists are confirmed. It takes equal parts coordination and flexibility to keep everything on track. Hymns and anthems are thoughtfully chosen to reflect the scripture and season. Finding the right choir anthem means balancing message, ability, and preparation time. It is indeed a musical puzzle as each year our combined choirs prepare and share over 200 choral anthems for worship!

With one month to go, the behind-the-scenes work shifts into full execution mode. Three separate bulletins are carefully formatted and proofed weekly. This number is multiplied during seasons like Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Holy Week, equating to over 200 per year. Along with a bulletin, each service has an accompanying script that is written, shared with organists, the sound/audio tech team, and then placed in the worship binders, which the pastors use each week. All the pieces of worship, including liturgy, prayers, scripture, hymns, anthems, lighting cues, camera shots, sound needs, usher directions, even candle lighting and the positioning of the flowers, are thoughtfully woven together so that every voice and every cue is aligned. All done to provide a meaningful worship experience for the congregation.

The week leading up to a Sunday morning, everything is checked and refined. The production and sound teams confirm livestream and audio needs, announcements are finalized, and bulletins are printed and folded. By midweek, materials are organized for ushers, and by Thursday, final scripts are in the hands of those involved in worship for that Sunday. It's a steady rhythm that creates consistency across services and campuses and gives all involved support and clarity while leading worship.

Weekly worship unfolds with months of prayer, collaboration, care, and intention, all in an effort to provide thoughtfully crafted and grace-filled services. And in that careful preparation, space is created for us to step in, encounter God, and experience something meaningful, sacred, and transformative.



NEW: FAMILY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

BRING YOUR FAMILY TO VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THIS SUMMER!

We are switching things up this year with VBS and are excited to offer a family-focused program where you can learn with your child! During each session we will sing, craft, and grow in our faith!

There will be one session available in June, July, and August at each campus. Registrations are separate so come once or for all three! Registration is open online at mtolivet.org. If you have questions, please contact Amy Porthan at amyp@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2284.

JUNE THEME: KINDNESS

Sunday, June 7, Mpls Campus
Sunday, June 21, West Campus

JULY THEME: PRAYER

Sunday, July 12, Mpls Campus
Sunday, July 26, West Campus

AUGUST THEME: FAMILY MOTTO

Sunday, August 9, Mpls Campus
Sunday, August 30, West Campus



**CONGRATS TO OUR 2026 MOUNT OLIVET PRESCHOOL GRADUATES!
WHAT A PRIVILEGE IT'S BEEN TO WATCH YOU LEARN AND GROW!**

MOUNT OLIVET PRESCHOOL

We would love to partner with you for your child's preschool learning!

The Mount Olivet Preschool offers a safe and stimulating environment where children thrive! Our licensed preschool consists of three classrooms, with children grouped by age (3, 4, and 5 years). Classes enjoy daily routines and weekly lessons that are developmentally appropriate and hands-on. Our preschoolers participate in weekly music classes and make the most of our building amenities with regular use of the gym, indoor large muscle space, and newly updated courtyard playground.

The highly qualified, engaged preschool staff make strong and meaningful connections with students and families. Our community extends beyond the classroom! Mount Olivet Preschool gives families the chance to gather at a variety of exciting events throughout the year – the Party at the Pumpkin Patch, Christmas Tree Lighting, a festive Christmas program, and more – it is truly a special community!

If you know anyone looking for preschool care, Mount Olivet Preschool has availability for 3- and 4-year-olds beginning fall 2026. Please reach out to Lisa Rosenfield, Preschool Director, for more information and touring opportunities at lrosenfield@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2216.

FEATURED EVENTS

MENTAL HEALTH CONNECT PRESENTS: STORIES OF HOPE

Thursday, May 7, 8-9am, Mpls Campus, \$25

Get ready to feel inspired together! This year we lift up the collective practice of hope and the way we build resilience in community. Enjoy delightful music, savor a delicious breakfast, and mingle with fellow community members. Let's come together to hold hope and support one another. Mental Health Connect is dedicated to providing support and resources for mental health concerns, as well as combating the stigma surrounding mental health conversations, especially within faith communities. Your contributions at this event will help sustain our impactful work all year long. Let's come together and spread hope and support each other. Please register online at mtolivet.org.



MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH & WORSHIP

Sunday, May 10, 9am Worship, Brunch Seating at 10am or 12noon, Conference & Retreat Center, \$37 for adults (18yrs+), \$22 for youth (4-17yrs), and children under 4 are free

Celebrate Mom with delicious food, beautiful views, and warm hospitality at Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center.

Pastor Kalland and Rev. Theresa Latini will lead worship with brunch to follow. Come for worship and brunch or just brunch. Stay for a hike on the trails, a dip in the pool, a round of gaga ball, or a restful sit on one of our outdoor patios. Let us handle the details while your family makes memories! All are welcome. Registration is required. Payment is due at the time of booking. Because of the popularity and planning needs for this event, we cannot offer refunds once registered.



YOUNG IN HEART & FRIENDS

Tuesday, May 19, 12noon, Mpls Campus, \$10

Join us for a lunch and presentation from Rolf Jacobson. He'll be presenting on *Humor and the Christian Life*. This presentation doesn't try to be funny or teach someone how to be funny. Rather, it learns from those who study comedy and humor and applies lessons learned to the life of those who follow Jesus.

Here's a little bit more about Rolf Jacobson

Rolf Jacobson is Dean of the Faculty, Professor of Old Testament, and the Alvin N. Rogness Chair of Scripture, Theology, and Ministry. He joined the Luther Seminary faculty in 2003. Prior to that, he served on the faculty of Augsburg University and as Associate Pastor of Como Park Lutheran Church (St. Paul, Minnesota). Rolf is known for combining humor and faithful biblical interpretation. You can see this in his book *The Homebrewed Christianity Guide to the Old Testament: Israel's In-Your-Face, Holy God*, and *Divine Laughter: Preaching and the Serious Business of Humor* (with Karl Jacobson).

Rolf enjoys collaborating with other leaders. With Craig Koester, he developed and supports the Narrative Lectionary. With Beth Tanner and Nancy deClaissé-Walford he wrote *The Book of Psalms (NICOT)*. With Karl Jacobson, he wrote *Invitation to the Psalms*. With several others, he wrote both *Crazy Talk: A Not-So-Stuffy Dictionary of Theological Terms* and *Crazy Book: A Not-So-Stuffy Dictionary of Biblical Terms* (with Hans Wiersma and Karl Jacobson). And with Michael Chan, he is the author of *Introducing the Old Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey*.

For over 15 years, he was a part of "Sermon Brainwave," a weekly preaching podcast. He continues to participate in "The Narrative Lectionary" podcast. Rolf sings the high lonesome and operates a guitar in "The Fleshspots of Egypt," a Lutheran bluegrass band.

A survivor of childhood cancer, he is a double, above-the-knee amputee who generally wears a bicycle and a smile. He lives in St. Paul, Minnesota, with his beloved wife Amy, their children Ingrid and Gunnar, and a cat who thinks he is a lion. He is a loyal friend, lifelong sufferer of Minnesota sports, and committed board-game geek. He is an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.





UPCOMING AT MOUNT OLIVET

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

FLYING SOLO: SERVE AT SPRING COMMUNION

Saturday, May 2, 10-11 am or 11 am-2pm, Mpls Campus

Help serve at the Spring Communion Luncheon! You can set tables or serve the meal and clean up.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday, May 7 & Thursday, May 21, 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.

CAREER & CALLING IN-PERSON EVENT AT MERCADO CENTRAL

Tuesday, May 12, 5-7pm, Mercado Central - 1515 E Lake St, Minneapolis

You are invited to join us for the final Career & Calling event before the summer break. We will gather in-person at Mercado Central to enjoy some informal networking and conversation. If you haven't ever been to Mercado Central, or if it's been a while, come and check it out. Mercado Central is a thriving marketplace of 35 Latino restaurants and shops that celebrate the very best of Hispanic culture in the Twin Cities. You can choose for yourself what food and merchandise you may wish to experience. Come and join us to close out our program year and show support to these vital businesses. Registration is requested to plan our space needs.

MOCW CIRCLE CELEBRATION

Wednesday, May 13, 5-7pm, Edina Country Club

Mount Olivet is so grateful for your continued work and support of our church. There will be a short program at 6pm and appetizers will be served along with a cash bar. Cost is free and no registration is needed. Please note that valet parking is available.

TUTTLE'S NIGHT

Thursday, May 14, 5:30-8pm, Tuttle's Eat Bowl Play

Meet at Tuttle's in Hopkins for dinner and live music! This will be the perfect chance to reconnect! We'll have lots of time for catching up and rocking out to music with a band created just for this occasion! It's All Star Mount Olivet members are: Peter Borne, Joel Checkik, Tom Hammersten, Big Jim Myers, and Nate Hatzung! Suffice it to say it'll be fun. Please register by May 11!

SPRING VOLUNTEER DAY

Saturday, May 16, 9am-3pm, Conference & Retreat Center, Free

Whether you're a family looking for volunteer opportunities, a small group wanting a day away together, or a volunteer day regular, all are welcome to help prepare the Conference & Retreat Center for summer. As a thank you for your service, please enjoy a delicious meal from our kitchen, have a swim in the pool, explore the trails, and soak up the beauty of the grounds.

ART CLASS: ALCOHOL INK GARDEN

Monday, May 18, 6-8pm, 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.

GATHERING IN PRAYER AND SONG FOR PEACE AND HEALING

Tuesday, May 19, 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.

FRIENDS FOREVER AT CANTERBURY

Sunday, May 31, 1pm, Canterbury Park in Shakopee

Join us for an afternoon of horse racing including a Mount Olivet Friends Forever Race! Further details will be sent to the Friends Forever group via email.

18TH MOTORHEADS @ MTKA DRIVE-IN

Tuesday, June 2, 6-7:30pm, 4656 Shoreline Drive, Spring Park

Arrive between 6 and 6:45pm. Pastor Kalland will share a brief devotion. All car enthusiasts are invited to this classic 50s-style restaurant that features car hops, burgers, and cool cars. No reservations needed.



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Summer Worship Hours



SUMMER HOURS BEGIN SUNDAY, MAY 24
WORSHIP AT 9 & 10AM ONLY