

AUGUST 2026

BELIEVING, BELONGING, BECOMING

MOUNT OLIVET MESSENGER



mtolivet.org



M MPLS CAMPUS

5025 Knox Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55419
612.926.7651

W WEST CAMPUS

7150 Rolling Acres Rd
Victoria, MN 55386
952.767.1500

SUNDAYS

DIAL-IN VIA PHONE

833.775.1238

10am

WATCH THE MPLS WORSHIP SERVICE AT MTOLIVET.ORG

9 & 10am

HOLY COMMUNION

8:30am (except 8/16)

NURSERY (NOW FOR AGES 6 WEEKS TO 6 YEARS)

9 & 10am

AUGUST 2

FORGIVENESS ISN'T ABOUT DESERVING.

Luke 15:11-24

- M** 9 & 10am
SERMON Pastor Cieslik
MUSIC Diane Loudon, cello
- W** 9 & 10am
SERMON Pastor Lose
MUSIC Claire Loudon, violin

AUGUST 9

FORGIVENESS CAN BE HARD TO ACCEPT.

Luke 15:25-32

- M** 9 & 10am
SERMON Pastor Freeman
MUSIC Matthew Valverde, tenor
- W** 9 & 10am
SERMON Pastor Olson Popp
MUSIC Charles Gibb, flute

AUGUST 16

FORGIVENESS IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE. COMMUNION SUNDAY

Matthew 26:20-29

- M** 9 & 10am
SERMON Pastor Grangaard
MUSIC Sullivan Ojala
Helmbolt, baritone
- W** 9 & 10am
SERMON Pastor Hammersten
MUSIC Matthew Valverde, tenor

AUGUST 23

FORGIVENESS IS A GIFT, NOT A COMMAND.

Luke 11:1-13

- M** 9 & 10am
SERMON Pastor Lose
MUSIC Julie Johnson, flute
- W** 9 & 10am
SERMON Pastor Cieslik
MUSIC Kira Seidel, French Horn

AUGUST 30

FORGIVENESS CHANGES YOU.

Luke 7:36-50

- M** 9 & 10am
SERMON Pastor Olson Popp
MUSIC Dana Donnay, oboe
- W** 9 & 10am
SERMON Pastor Dixon
MUSIC Emily Gerard, Harp

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

Day Camp Campers



The Gift of Forgiveness

Forgiveness is, I think, the hardest of the three major “faith words” we’re exploring this summer. When we experience God’s grace, when we are caught up in hope, we often sense God’s presence in our lives powerfully. Those moments are unambiguously positive. Forgiveness is positive too, of course, but also can be complex and can raise some challenging questions.

To explore the complexities and possibilities of forgiveness, I want to respond to several of the questions I am regularly asked about forgiveness. But, first, let’s start with a basic definition: that is, what is forgiveness? One of the most helpful descriptions I’ve found comes from Archbishop Desmond Tutu who, among other things, led the “Truth and Reconciliation Commission” as South Africa moved out of the horror of Apartheid. “Forgiveness is releasing your just claim against someone.” That claim might be vengeance or payback for some past hurt, or it might be simply the resentment we feel about how someone has treated or disappointed us. Either way, as we release our claim on another, we discover that we, too, are set free. We will not be defined by the past, by someone else’s actions or our mistakes. With this in mind, let’s turn to three regular questions I hear.

Do I have to forgive? Yes, with an important caveat. God absolutely calls us – even commands us – to forgive one another. But, as with all of God’s commands, the call to forgive is not given to set a standard by which God judges us, but rather is given to guide us into deeper, richer, more abundant life. Each time we contemplate forgiving – someone else or ourselves – we are presented with an opportunity to transcend a past hurt, to live into a future not bound or defined by mistakes and shortcomings but instead by possibility and an open future. In this sense, forgiveness is more gift than command.

What about those times we struggle to forgive? Are we being unfaithful? Is God mad at us? Let me say it again. Forgiveness is a gift, something we give to others and to ourselves. But that doesn’t mean it’s easy – to give or receive! There will be times when we can receive and offer the gift of forgiveness easily, and there are other times when the true gift is the patience we need to get to a place of forgiveness. Forgiveness cannot be forced. There may be times when you really do want to forgive, even know that you “should” forgive, and yet not find yourself able to. At those times, be patient with yourself and know that God forgives you, even when you can’t forgive others or yourself.

How do we forgive? Most often, forgiveness is a process. Sometimes it happens quickly, and sometimes it may play out over years. While it won’t unfold for everyone the same way, there are some steps that you may find helpful.

1. Tell the truth. What happened and why does it hurt? Naming difficult things clarifies them and takes away some of the power of unspoken pain.
2. Express your feelings. Denying that you are hurting, or shaming yourself into thinking you shouldn’t hurt, doesn’t help. Pain, anger, resentment. These are all natural. Repressing them will make it more difficult to move beyond them.
3. Assess where you are on the journey. Is this something that you can let go? If so, forgiveness is around the corner. If not, ask yourself what needs to happen or change to prepare you to let go. Don’t be afraid to share your struggles with a friend so you don’t have to journey alone. And, again, be patient with yourself.
4. Pray. For yourself, for the ability to forgive and move forward, for the person you are trying to forgive, even if you aren’t ready to forgive them yet.
5. Forgive. When you are ready. When you are able. Forgive, but don’t feel the pressure to forget. That’s not a requirement, and I think that forgiving when remembering something hurtful is an incredible gift.

Sometimes forgiveness is easy. Sometimes it’s hard. And sometimes it’s really hard. Wherever you might be in that journey, remember that, whether we are giving or receiving forgiveness, it is always God’s gift to us, to set us free from the past and allow us to move into the future with hope and confidence. And, even more, remember that God forgives us – even when we struggle to forgive – and that God loves and accepts us. Always. That’s why we gather together: to remind each other of God’s gifts of grace, hope, love, community, and forgiveness.

See you in Church!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR



WHAT IS MOCW?

Mount Olivet Church Women (MOCW) is the organization that unifies all women of Mount Olivet. The mission of MOCW is *to make connections through fellowship and service opportunities that create a community at Mount Olivet*. All Mount Olivet women are automatically members of MOCW. Attending and supporting MOCW initiatives in turn helps the ministries of Mount Olivet, through fundraising, community events, donation drives, and more!

HOW TO GET INVOLVED AT MOCW

MOCW hosts a variety of community events throughout the year including a Holiday Boutique (Mpls) and Holiday Market (West) in November, the annual Lutefisk Dinner in December and Ladies' Night early in the new year; these events are fundraisers for Mount Olivet Church ministries. Anyone is welcome at any/all of our MOCW events, and all of them need volunteers. MOCW also has small groups that we call Circles, circles offer women a small community and fellowship within our large church. Circle gatherings range in frequency, location, timing, interest, and other demographics. To learn more about MOCW and all it has to offer this upcoming program year, we are inviting you to the MOCW Social.

MOCW SOCIAL

Wednesday, August 19, 5-7pm, Edina Country Club, Free

Join your Circle friends, learn more about MOCW, and sign up to volunteer. There will be something for everyone with appetizers, a cash bar, and complimentary valet available. No registration required. In addition to this already great fellowship opportunity, we are requesting that attendees bring a donation item for the Dala House (kids-only shopping) which happens at the Holiday Boutique and Holiday Market. Suggested items include:

- Minnesota sports teams' merchandise
- Fun men's socks
- Fishing gear
- Golf balls
- Card games/small games
- Gardening tools
- Grilling tools/spices
- Grooming/shaving kit
- Key chains
- Dog toys



A MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY

Have you ever noticed how so many of the really important events of our lives involve food? From family reunions to vacation barbecues, wedding receptions to graduation parties, we mark significant events by eating together.

The central importance of food and the role it plays in our lives has always been at the forefront of Mount Olivet's ministry of hospitality. Oh, you might know that part of our church by other names – perhaps “our kitchen staff” or the “food services department.” But talk to anyone who is part of that team, and particularly our Director of Culinary Services, Sally McNamee, and you will understand very quickly that to these dedicated staff and volunteers, this is a ministry: a ministry of hospitality.

That hospitality comes through in so many moments, but especially at funeral receptions, where staff go out of their way to personalize decorations and menu choices, and in our weekly community meals that so many of our neighbors still depend upon.

Take a glance below at the kitchen stats showing the depth of ministry over the last twelve months. This is just a glimpse of the important work and hospitality from this tremendous team, thank you!

FROM MAY 2025 TO APRIL 2026

On-site Events: 816
Funeral Receptions: 71
Funeral Guests Served: 7,352
Community Meal Guests: 37,986
Total Attendees: 124,612
Combined Volunteer Hours: 7,136



LIFE & GROWTH

JUN 16 - JUL 15

BAPTISMS

Nikita Kimal

daughter of Susan and Ray

Wells Mitchell Rahn

son of Savanna and Caleb

Milla Hyumi Skrivseth

daughter of Jayson

Sammi Lee Spratt

daughter of Kristine and Adam

Sophie Sutton Spratt

daughter of Kristine and Adam

Celine Rae Williams

daughter of Stephanie and Blake

WEDDINGS

Natalie Suedbeck & Hayden Lacy

Kylie Kaminski & Michael Fritz

Morgan Robinson & Charles

Dickey

DEATHS

Andrew W. Bachman

Beth C. Barnett

Gail Brinkworth

Kathleen McReavy

Ronald R. Miller

Charles P. Olson

Judy M. Sandberg

Marlene M. Skrivseth

John F. Simmons

Beverly E. Weber

DEVOTION

Summers are made for poetry. Our rhythm and cadence change to match the season. Days are longer. Nights are shorter. We savor the cool mornings and long evenings bookending the hot afternoon sun. We lean towards water and wide-reaching trees. Perhaps our words, too, ought to shift, slow down, and invite us into the best of our days.

I suggest Mary Oliver's poem *The Summer Day*. It is best known for its last line: "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" What a beautiful and terrifying question! What if I get it—or got it—wrong?

Read the rest of the poem and you will see that the poet is not asking about the future, but today. This day. The poet does not ask us to get our affairs in order or hitch our wagon to the one blazing star that will plot the course for the rest of our lives. After all, our lives, like the sky, are made up of many stars. The poet is more concerned with whether we will notice. For the poet, prayer is paying attention.

What makes our lives wild and precious is the living of them, in the messy and unexpected and fleeting present. Take care of the minutes and the years will take care of themselves. Do not worry about tomorrow, Jesus says. Consider the lilies, Jesus invites.

May this season root you in your wildness and preciousness. May you reap a harvest of goodness and wonder. — **PASTOR GRANGAARD**



PARKING LOT & USHER INTEREST

Want to help out on Sunday mornings at church? We are looking for volunteers to help us in the parking lots at both campuses and for ushers during all three services (especially during the 11am services) to hand out bulletins and assist in the offering during our worship services. The time commitment is 12 Sundays per year, plus special services as needed.

If you are interested in volunteering at the West Campus, please contact Jody Barbee at jbarbee@mtolivet.org or 952.767.1501. To volunteer at the Mpls Campus, please contact Julie Reece at julier@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2260.

We have a meeting and dinner for parking crews and ushers coming up on Tuesday, September 1, at the Mpls Campus and Wednesday, September 2, at the West Campus.

GARDEN CLUB HELP NEEDED

The Mount Olivet Garden Club helps care for several areas around the Mpls Campus church grounds, including the pots that adorn the front of the church, the flowers in the courtyard, and select areas around the church. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved—from planting, to watering, to pruning and weeding.

Whether you have a love of flowers and gardening or simply enjoy being outdoors and lending a hand, we would love to have you join us!

If you'd like to learn more about the Garden Club, please contact Lisa Boss at Lisaboss1230@gmail.com or 612.850.3848.



Love IN ACTION

"Let us love not in word or speech alone but in deed and truth" –1 John 3:18

Our Stewardship theme, **Love in Action**, comes from this powerful reminder in 1 John: love is more than words—it is something we *do*. Through your generosity, God's love is put into action at Mount Olivet. You help feed those who are hungry, support families, nurture faith at every age, and care for those facing difficult seasons. Every ministry we share is strengthened by the faithful gifts of members like you. Thank you for making this work possible.

As we enter our Stewardship Season this September, I invite you to take part in this work of love in three meaningful ways:

- **Come to Sunday worship**, one of the first and most important ways we grow together and live out Love in Action.
- **Make your 2027 financial commitment** by setting up scheduled giving via your *Realm* account and/or making your annual pledge—a promise that strengthens and sustains all the ways God's love is shared through Mount Olivet. *Pledge cards will be mailed to all members in early September, or you can pledge online via your Realm account.*
- **Gather for a Stewardship meal**, where we will give thanks, enjoy fellowship, watch a joyful year-in-review video, hear from Senior Pastor Lose, and celebrate all God has done among us.

I give thanks each day to serve a congregation that lives out its faith so generously and faithfully. Your gifts—of time, talent, and resources—make a lasting difference in countless lives. Thank you!

KATIE STEVENSON, *Director of Stewardship*

STEWARDSHIP MEALS

TRADITIONAL MEALS

- *Wednesday, September 16, 6-7pm, West Campus
- Thursday, September 17, 6-7pm, Mpls Campus
- Friday, September 18, 12noon-1pm, Mpls Campus
- *Wednesday, September 23, 6-7pm, Mpls Campus
- Thursday, September 24, 6-7pm, Mpls Campus
- *Sunday, September 27, 12noon-1pm, West Campus
- *Monday, September 28, 6-7pm, Mpls Campus
- *Nursery provided for six-weeks through age six*

DRIVE-THROUGH MEALS

Please note the start time of 5pm.

- Monday, September 14, 5-6pm, Mpls Campus
- Monday, September 21, 5-6pm, West Campus
- Tuesday, September 22, 5-6pm, Mpls Campus

REGISTER HERE



DONATIONS AT MEALS

Donations of shampoo, conditioner, and deodorant will be collected at the Stewardship meals and distributed to our community partners: Community Emergency Services and Love INC. Handled paper grocery bags will also be collected for the ongoing Thursday night Community Meals. Thank you!

Questions? Check out the new FAQ page at mtolivet.org/givingfaq or contact Katie Stevenson, Director of Stewardship, at katies@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2232



MOUNT OLIVET BOOK DISCUSSIONS: EVENING AND DAYTIME OPTIONS

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

AUGUST 11/12: *Snow in August* by Pete Hamill

SEPTEMBER 8/9: *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans

OCTOBER 13/14: *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother* by James McBride

Please be sure to register to receive reminder emails and more. You can register online at mtolivet.org/education or by contacting Katie Stevenson at katies@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2232.

GOD WITH US: A LEVITICUS STORY

What does it mean to start over? How do we begin again? How do we live with God and with other people? What does a good life look like? We will turn to the story of God's people starting over again in—of all places, the book of Leviticus.

At the end of the book of Exodus, the Israelites have escaped the brutal enslavement of Pharaoh in Egypt. They are journeying through the wilderness to the land that God has promised them. In the wilderness, on the move, God instructs Moses: “build a tabernacle—a sanctuary, a tent of meeting—so that I can dwell with and among my people on this journey.”

So that's what they do. They build a ‘house’ for the Lord, and in the final verses of Exodus, “the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.” There, in the middle of the wilderness, God was present. God was with God's people.

This is where Leviticus picks up.

You may have never thought much about this book and its 27 chapters of instructions and commands, but in it lies a handbook of how to live well with God and one another. In it lies a blueprint for how to be holy people, new people, after starting over. Through the ordinary rituals found in this story, we come to know a God who is just, merciful, forgiving, and near to us.

Join Pastor Olson Popp and Pastor Grangaard for a deep dive into this surprisingly beautiful book of the Bible, the story of a God who desires to be close to God's people and who calls us to be priests—to be holy people—in the world.

IN-PERSON PRESENTATIONS HELD:

MPLS: Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30am in Room 207

WEST: Thursdays, 10:30-11:30am in the Rehearsal Hall

Or via weekly videos sent out one week after the Mpls class dates

OCTOBER 21/22: *Sacrifice: How to Worship God* with Pastor Olson Popp

OCTOBER 28/29: *Manual: How to be a Priest* with Pastor Grangaard

NOVEMBER 4/5: *Ritual: How to Live Together* with Pastor Olson Popp

NOVEMBER 11/12: *Code: How to be Holy* with Pastor Grangaard

Register at mtolivet.org/education or by contacting Katie Stevenson, Coordinator of Adult Education at katies@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2232.

Pastoral Visits Bring Comfort, Care, and Connection

Did you know that Mount Olivet pastors make visits to individuals in all kinds of circumstances?

The Mount Olivet Congregational Care department is a central point of contact when a member of our church family is no longer able to attend church, hospitalized, staying in a rehabilitation facility, recovering at home, under hospice care, nearing end of life, or other reasons. A call to Congregational Care helps your church know when a visit is needed and/or would be welcome. Congregational Care then schedules these visits for the pastors.

A visit from one of our pastors can be a source of comfort, prayer, reconnection with the church, and companionship. Issues such as health concerns often bring uncertainty and many questions for an individual and those caring for them. In those moments, a pastor's presence can be a reminder that spiritual care and prayers of the congregation are close at hand. Pastoral visits typically include conversation, listening, prayer, reading scripture, and sharing Holy Communion; however, they are tailored to the reason for the visit. These visits offer quiet time to pray together, a chance to talk through concerns, celebrate joyful times, give thanks for life, be grateful for healing progress, reconnect with Mount Olivet, or simply share a caring presence. Spiritual care provides a calm, caring presence for those walking alongside loved ones through a difficult time, reminding them that they, too, are held in prayer and supported by their church community.

Another benefit of a pastoral visit is that it allows Congregational Care to continue, if needed, as a form of care for an individual or family member. Depending on the type of visit, care may include a phone call, inclusion in the daily prayer teams' prayers, a prayer shawl, providing a resource, or setting up a future visit. This care may also include one or two meals. The Congregational Care department partners with Amity Circle, whose service project is to prepare and freeze meals that make the situation a little easier. This ministry offers practical support for individuals and families during recovery, adjustment, or time of added stress.

Mount Olivet pastors enjoy visiting parishioners in all kinds of circumstances. Please call 612.926.7651 and ask for Congregational Care if you or someone you love no longer gets to church, is hospitalized, is in a rehabilitation facility, under hospice care, recovering at home, or nearing end of life and family or the individual would appreciate a pastoral visit. Your call helps us extend the spiritual care, comfort, and connection of the Mount Olivet church family.

SAVE THE DATE!: ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE: WHAT IT IS AND WHAT CAN BE DONE

**Tuesday, October 13,
10-11:30am**

Presented by Joseph Gaugler, PhD, Robert L. Kane Endowed Chair in Long-Term Care and Aging and a Professor at the University of Minnesota.

Whether you are caring for a loved one, concerned about memory changes, or simply want to learn more, we invite you to join Dr. Gaugler for an insightful and encouraging presentation on Alzheimer's disease. Together, you'll explore the warning signs, gain a better understanding of the disease and its progression, and learn practical strategies and resources to help navigate the journey with confidence and compassion.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for this free community event. Before and after the presentation, you'll have the opportunity to visit informational exhibits, connect with local organizations, and discover valuable resources for individuals, families, and caregivers.

We hope you'll join us for an morning of learning, connection, and support.



THANK YOU DAY CAMP STAFF AND CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES CAMP STAFF

PASTOR LOSE, Senior Pastor

For many, summer is a time to get away and relax, when the days are both longer and less scheduled. In some ways, the opposite is true for our staff teams who work with children and youth. Each week at the Mpls Campus this summer, and for several weeks at the West Campus and Conference & Retreat Center, we are hosting day camps for kids between kindergarten and fifth grade. In addition, we host several middle-school aged camps. Now in its fifth year, our Summer Day Camp program serves both Mount Olivet and neighborhood families and we have close to 1,000 registrations each summer. That kind of program doesn't come out of thin air, and I'm so grateful to Kristin Olson, Katy Michaletz, Amy Porthan, and the nineteen dedicated college-aged students who work here all summer loving up our campers, taking them on field trips, and making sure they have a wonderful experience. We feel lucky to have such a fantastic team!

Drive 240 miles north, and you'll find another busy crew of staff at Cathedral of the Pines Camp. Kristi Youngdahl, Kris Erickson, and Gail Breen oversee twenty-two summer staff who help create a fun and faith-filled experience where nearly 2,000 campers, workstaff, and counselors get away from home (and technology!) into the beautiful Northwoods and build a stronger relationship with friends and with God.

Please take a moment to say a prayer of thanksgiving for our wonderful staff at both Day Camps and COP. They are dedicated, caring, faithful, and wonderful young adults that give of their time and talents and, in return, grow in their faith and leadership abilities. Yes, summer is busy at our Camps, and wonderful! Thanks be to God!



SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY MINISTRY PARTNER: LOVE INC

In 2003, a group of Carver County churches began looking for a more efficient and collaborative way to respond to unmet needs in the community. A few local pastors learned about a worldwide ministry called Love INC—Love In the Name of Christ—which invites local churches to work together to care for their neighbors. After visiting a Love INC affiliate in Michigan, those pastors returned to Minnesota inspired with a vision for Eastern Carver County. Called by the Holy Spirit, they decided to give it a try, despite uncertainties about how churches from different denominations would work together. Thankfully, they listened to Spirit's call: 24 of the 26 churches in the area said yes, and in 2006, Love INC of Eastern Carver County was born.

This past April, Mount Olivet's West Campus hosted a Clergy Summit celebrating Love INC's 20 years of ministry in Eastern Carver County. Two original Love INC faith leaders—Father Bob White of St. Victoria Catholic Church and Pastor Greg Snow of St. John's Lutheran Church—shared the founding story; civic leaders reflected on Love INC's financial and neighborly impact on the community; Love INC's executive director, Al Norby, inspired continued commitment to this collaborative ministry; and Mount Olivet's Sally McNamee and fabulous kitchen team provided incredible breakfast and lunch for the gathering.

Today, Love INC of Eastern Carver County is comprised of 32 churches working together to bridge gaps in daily living essentials and foster a spirit of hope by offering community support.

Mount Olivet hosts a personal care ministry through Love INC. With the ongoing and growing need for personal care products, in 2025 alone, Mount Olivet delivered hygiene kits to 473 households. Each kit includes deodorant, feminine hygiene products, razors, shampoo and conditioner, soap, tissues and toilet paper, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. Donations are collected year-round at both the Minneapolis and West campuses. Thank you, Mount Olivet, for your generous contributions, and thank you, Mount Olivet member, Sonya Lund, for so faithfully coordinating this critical ministry.

Mount Olivet also hosts two signature ministry events with Love INC each year: Christmas for All and Easter for All. These seasonal volunteer opportunities are meaningful ways to connect with neighbors inside and outside the Mount Olivet congregation. Together, Christmas for All and Easter for All support more than 200 families each year.

Please know that all are welcome and warmly invited to participate in these ministries! Whether you share your time, your resources, your prayers, or all three, your gifts of love make an impact. Please reach out to Laurie Hancer at lhancer@mtolivet.org or Pastor Freeman at rfreeman@mtolivet.org, if you would like to be part of Mount Olivet's Love INC team or other volunteer opportunities.

PASTOR FREEMAN

MOSOMA BY THE NUMBERS:

280+ students
 27 professional teachers
 19+ instruments taught
 140+ instructional hours per week
 157 student performers in Spring 2026 recitals
 34 trial lessons given in the 2025-2026 program year
 13 weekly lessons in an average term
 \$39: average cost of a 30-minute lesson
 24 years of operation
 >75%: students who are not Mount Olivet members
 5-85: student age range
 2 campuses of lesson offerings

DID YOU KNOW?

MOSOMA serves adult students, too! Whether you're a beginner or returning to music after some time away, lessons are for all. Guitar, voice, flute, piano, saxophone, and violin are some of our most popular instruments for adult learners.

MOSOMA also offers monthly art classes! All classes are beginner-friendly, with a step-by-step format and freedom for creativity. Find fall offerings on the events page and register at mtolivet.org!

If you are interested in learning more about MOSOMA or taking lessons, visit mtolivet.org/mosoma and fill out the private lesson interest form!



If you walk the halls of Mount Olivet's classroom wing on a weeknight, you are certain to hear a symphony of sound – classical flute repertoire, musical theatre solos, lush guitar chords, teacher/student violin duets, saxophone jazz standards, and piano repertoire from beginner to advanced. Week after week, these students and their dedicated instructors show up to learn, make music, and grow!

At the end of each semester, Mount Olivet School of Music & the Arts (MOSOMA) students have the opportunity to showcase their progress at recitals. Last May, MOSOMA hosted an unprecedented 19 recitals across four weekends. While most of these featured single studios, we offered two open recitals for the first time, showcasing students from nine different instructors. We heard everything from the *National Anthem* and *Hamilton* on piano, to *Suzuki* viola solos and finger-style guitar! The students' courage and hard work were on full display, and it was the ultimate testament to the community that music creates.

In another first, two MOSOMA high school students went above and beyond to prepare solo recitals — a tremendous achievement. A solo performer prepares an hour of music that they spend months practicing, creates a cohesive program, learns to work with an accompanist or other musical collaborators, and works through the mental challenge of staying present and calm as they take center stage. Henrik Mills, a recent graduate of Edina High School and student of Kira Seidel, designed his program around his budding career as a singer/songwriter. He performed covers of popular songs while self-accompanying on guitar or piano and performed two original songs as well. Cecilia Ruesga, a rising senior at Edina and student of Julie Johnson, performed an exceedingly difficult flute repertoire and also surprised the audience with a debut of her original song for voice and piano. To see these students take pride in their musical journeys and accomplishments while being so well supported by their lesson teachers is exactly what MOSOMA is all about, and as we continue into the 2026-2027 program year, we can't wait for more!

SOPHIE NORMAN, *Coordinator of Mount Olivet School of Music & the Arts*

REGISTER FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL!



We invite children in preschool through grade 5 to join us for Sunday School this fall! Sunday School at Mount Olivet is a combined children's choir and faith formation experience taught by professional educators and experienced volunteers. Weekly lessons include Bible Stories, music activities, friendship building, and arts and crafts.

As children and families participate in faith formation through Sunday School, we expect they will:

- Discover the story of God's love for them and all of God's people.
- Learn and practice lifelong habits of worship, singing, and prayer that will nurture and strengthen their faith.
- Begin to cultivate a faith of action that moves them to do for others.
- Form foundational relationships that connect them to one another and to the congregation.

Sunday School is offered at the Minneapolis and West Campuses during the 9 and 10am worship services from Rally Sunday, September 13, 2026, through May 9, 2027. Registration is online along with a more detailed schedule for the program year.

Please contact Amy Porthan, Faith Formation Coordinator, at amyp@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2285 with any questions.

REGISTER HERE



REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR MOUNT OLIVET PLAY DAYS!

Make the most of school release days with Mount Olivet Play Days—a program designed just for Kindergarten through 5th-grade students! Each day will feature a field trip, guest experience, or themed on-campus fun. We'll do arts and crafts, play games, and engage in activities with Children & Family Ministry staff. Check your school calendars, invite a few friends, and register at mtolivet.org!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026, MPLS CAMPUS

Minneapolis and Edina Schools Release Day

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2026, WEST CAMPUS

Eastern Carver County Schools Release Day

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026, MPLS CAMPUS

Minneapolis and Edina Schools Release Day

MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2027, MPLS CAMPUS

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2027, MPLS CAMPUS

Minneapolis and Minnetonka Schools Release Day



REGISTER FOR YOUTH PROGRAMMING!

6TH GRADE STARTER

This program, specifically designed for our 6th graders, meets Wednesday evenings from 7-8pm from late September until the end of April at both campuses. Through a mixture of small and large group sessions, 6th graders will: build relationships with each other, strengthen relationships with their pastors and youth staff, practice praying, learn more about the Bible, and, of course, have fun! One of the big faith milestones is receiving your First Communion. We've incorporated First Communion instruction into this program, and this fall, families will be invited to learn with their 6th graders. 6th Grade Starter sets the stage for Confirmation as a 7th grader.

CONFIRMATION (7TH & 8TH GRADE)

The Confirmation program at Mount Olivet allows 7th and 8th graders to grow stronger in their faith, which is rooted in their baptismal promises. In Confirmation, your child will learn to read and interpret the Bible and learn more about what it means to live as a Christian according to the Lutheran tradition. They will build important relationships with their peers, Mount Olivet pastors, youth staff, and small group leaders. This is the season of life when their faith really starts to become their own! Confirmation includes weekly meetings on Wednesday evenings from 7-8pm at the Mpls and West Campuses and Sundays from 8:45-9:45am at the Mpls Campus.

CHANCEL CHOIR (6-8TH GRADE)

Chancel Choir provides a unique opportunity for middle school-age youth to explore their faith, build relationships with their peers and their faith community, and develop confidence through singing. This is an excellent service opportunity for 7th and 8th graders enrolled in Confirmation. Chancel Choir performs during worship several times throughout the year and rehearses on Wednesday evenings 5:45-6:30pm, late September through April.

CATHEDRAL CHOIR (9-12TH GRADE)

High school-age singers from many different schools and musical backgrounds join together each week to sing and serve in this special choir that adds youthful energy to our worship services. Cathedral Choir is a musical experience that helps adolescents develop and enrich their own individual faith story. Cathedral Choir performs during worship most Sundays and rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7pm, September through May.

REGISTER FOR ALL THESE
PROGRAMS USING THIS QR
CODE



A Legacy of Love for Mount Olivet

Sharing Their Love for Mount Olivet Through Vision Partners

Les and Dawn Dahlberg are active members of Mount Olivet who recently became Vision Partners. Twenty years ago, they joined Mount Olivet and quickly found the welcoming, friendly community with meaningful opportunities for involvement they were seeking. They worship at the West Campus, lead Friends Forever and Motorheads, and both serve as ushers. Dawn also volunteers every Thursday at the Mpls Campus with the Heritage Committee.



Their connection to Mount Olivet began long before they became members. As students at Mankato State University, now Minnesota State University, they often came home from late-night dates and watched Pastor Reuben Youngdahl sign off on television with his “Live Today” devotion. At the time, they never imagined they would one day be part of this dynamic faith community.

Their commitment to service has deep roots. Years ago, while living in Mankato, Les and Dawn were deeply involved in Jaycees and Jaycee Women. Part of the Jaycees creed says, “service to humanity is the best work of life.” They still believe that wholeheartedly, and becoming Vision Partners is one way they can continue living out that value—by supporting the mission and ministries of Mount Olivet.

Throughout their 52 years of marriage, Les and Dawn have moved often. Since they don’t have children, wherever they lived, their church community became their family—a place to serve and connect. “We have seen and experienced the impact of the visionaries who have led—and continue to lead—Mount Olivet Lutheran Church,” they shared. “We know our gift will help build on those visions and good works for years to come.”

To learn more about planned giving please visit mtolivet.org/planned-giving.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT A MOUNT OLIVET VISION PARTNER IS?

A Vision Partner is someone who has remembered Mount Olivet in their will or estate plan to benefit the ministry of Christ through Mount Olivet Lutheran Church or one or more of its Affiliated Ministries. It is a special group of people who desire to practice generosity and leave a lasting legacy beyond this lifetime for a cause that is important to them!

If you would like to inform us of current plans which are in place, (making you a Vision Partner) or if you are interested in conversation about charitable planning or have questions about Vision Partners or supporting Mount Olivet ministries, we are delighted and humbled to walk with you in this process!

To learn more about the Vision Partners program, or if you have included Mount Olivet or one of its affiliates in your will or estate plans, we would love to connect with you. Please reach out to Peter Youngdahl, Director of Development, at pyoungdahl@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2213.



UPCOMING AT MOUNT OLIVET

AUGUST 2026

MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION AT MTOLIVET.ORG

MIDWEEK SUMMER WORSHIP: SET FREE, SENT FORTH

Wednesdays, August 5 and August 12, Conference & Retreat Center, \$20 for dinner & program, additional \$10 for transportation

Come and enjoy a chef-prepared meal, followed by an engaging nature talk, and conclude with a worship service featuring Mount Olivet pastors and musicians. This year's theme, *Set Free, Sent Forth*, traces one of Scripture's most enduring promises — that in Christ, we are liberated from everything that holds us captive.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Thursdays, August 6 and August 20, 10:30-11:30am, Mpls Campus

The caregiving experience can be many things at once: rewarding, challenging, enlightening, and overwhelming. Led by Sarah Strasen, LICSW, this group offers connection, resources, and encouragement for anyone currently in a caregiving role.

FAMILY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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

Bring your family to Vacation Bible School this summer! We will sing, craft, and grow in our faith together once a month at each campus. The August theme will be *Family Motto*. Contact Amy Porthan with questions at amyp@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2284.

ART CLASS: PAINT LIKE PAUL CEZANNE

Monday, August 10, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus

You'll learn about his life, artistic style, and influence on the art world while recreating one of Paul Cezanne works on an 8x10in canvas. This step-by-step class is perfect for those wanting to explore acrylic paints, learn new techniques, and dive into the world of Impressionism.

YOUNG IN HEART & FRIENDS: YOUR BEST DAY EVER AT THE STATE FAIR—REIMAGINED!

Tuesday, August 11, 12noon-1:30pm, Mpls Campus, \$10

Get ready for a lively event inspired by everything we love about the State Fair! Without the long lines—and with even more fun waiting around every corner! But that's not all... We'll uncover insider secrets—how to find the hidden gems, avoid the crowds, and make every moment unforgettable. Register by August 7.

HENNEPIN COUNTY SCHOOL SUPPLY SWAP

Saturday, August 15, 12noon-2:30pm, Mpls Campus

We are happy to partner with Hennepin County to host this event! Bring gently used or new items to share and swap. You don't have to bring anything to take something home. Everyone is welcome to participate.

MOCW SOCIAL

Wednesday, August 19, 5-7pm, Edina Country Club

Join your Circle friends, learn more about MOCW, and sign up to volunteer. There will be something for everyone with appetizers, a cash bar, and complimentary valet available. We are also collecting donations for the Dala House kids-only shopping at the MOCW Holiday Boutique and Holiday Market. See page 4 for a list of suggested items.

22ND MOTORHEADS' SHOW & BLESSING SERVICE

Sunday, August 23, 5pm Show, 6:30pm Blessing of Motors & Drivers, Mpls Campus, FREE

The event will feature awesome vehicles, the *Nordic Surf Band*, outdoor Blessing of Motors & Drivers, awards, and delicious food! Bring your own chair for this outdoor event. If weather is iffy, make sure you are signed up to receive Motorheads emails via your *Realm* account and watch your email for a go/no-go decision.

LOOKING AHEAD!

FLYING SOLO BOAT CRUISE

Sunday, September 13, 1:30-4pm, Al & Alma's Supper Club, \$79

Our Flying Solo year will kick off with a boat cruise on Lake Minnetonka! Join us at Al and Alma's for an afternoon of food and fun! Space is limited to 40 guests. Register by Saturday, August 29. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Freeman at rffreeman@mtolivet.org.

THE FIRST YEARS WITHOUT THEM

Thursdays, September 17 through November 5, 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.

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PROGRAMS

PRE-K THROUGH 12TH GRADE

NOW REGISTERING!

AT MTOLIVET.ORG