

MOUNT OLIVET MESSENGER





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 9/6 only
11am beginning 9/13

**WATCH THE MPLS
WORSHIP SERVICE AT
MTOLIVET.ORG**
9 & 10am 9/6 only
9, 10, & 11am beginning 9/13

HOLY COMMUNION
8:30am 9/76 only
8:30 & 11:45am beginning
9/13

NURSERY
9 & 10am 9/6 only
9, 10, 11am beginning 9/13

SEPTEMBER 6

**FORGIVENESS IS AN
ESSENTIAL PART OF
OUR EVERYDAY LIVES**
Matthew 18:21-33

M 9 & 10am
SERMON Pastor Kalland
MUSIC Elena Stabile, soprano
W 9 & 10am
SERMON Pastor Freeman
MUSIC Dana Donnay, oboe

SEPTEMBER 13

LOVE IN ACTION
1 John 3:16-18

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

SEPTEMBER 20

**SEEING GOD IN OUR
NEIGHBORS**
Matthew 25:31-46

M 9, 10, & 11am
SERMON Pastor Lose
MUSIC Mpls & West
Combined Cathedral
& Sanctuary Choirs
W 9, 10, & 11am
SERMON Pastor Olson
MUSIC Sanctuary Choir &
Ben Churchill, tenor

SEPTEMBER 27

FAITHFUL FRIENDS
Mark 2:1-12

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

9TH GRADE CONFIRMATION SERVICE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

M 1pm & livestreamed at mtolivet.org
On Sunday, September 20, our ninth-grade students and their families will gather for the Confirmation Service with special music from the Cathedral Choir and Brass Ensemble. It's a significant moment in the lives of our young people where they say "yes" to the promises that God made to them in their baptism. Please hold these young people and their families in prayer on this important day.

COVER PHOTO

Mount Olivet congregants putting *Love into Action*



Putting Love into Action

The author of the First Letter of John from the Bible was, pardoning the obvious pun, kind of a Johnny-one-note. While we don't actually know who wrote this letter, as it came some years after the Gospel of John, it was likely addressed to the same Christian community for whom the Gospel was written. It certainly lifts up some of the same themes and uses some familiar language but, goodness, this author is a little more repetitive. And the single word that is repeated more than any other is "love." It is mentioned forty-five times in this short letter.

Here is just a sampling:

- See what love the father has given us.
- This is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.
- How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?
- Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
- Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.
- God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.
- This is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.
- Since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.
- No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.
- There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.
- We love because he first loved us.
- Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister, are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

Clearly, love is important! But notice that it's not love in general, but 1) God's love for us, demonstrated especially in Jesus, 2) the impact that love has on us to cast out fear and grant us life and freedom, and 3) our response to love one another.

Except that when we love one another, we're not just responding to God's love, we're actually participating in God's work, we're multiplying God's love, we're seeing God all around us, we're experiencing God's presence in us, and we're testifying to

the truth of our confession. Love, according to 1 John, is dynamic, active, creative, even transformative. All of which makes sense. Think for a moment of how it feels to be loved – to be cared for, to have someone help you, to feel accepted, to know people are looking out for you – and you realize just how powerful love is.

My favorite "love verse" from this letter serves as our Stewardship theme this year: "Let us love one another, not in word or speech alone, but in action and in truth." While I have often heard this as a command — and a very important command at that! — recently I realized it's far more of an invitation. An invitation to experience God's love more fully, to be transformed by that love, and thereby to be part of God's creative, transformative work. When our love moves beyond words to action, it becomes three-dimensional and affects us, as well as those around us, so much more powerfully.

The key verse which helped me re-orient how I read this verse comes in the first paragraph, when the pastor who wrote this letter explains to his congregation that he is writing "so that your joy may be complete." That's what putting love into action does – it multiplies your joy, your contentment, your faith, your love.

For 106 years, Mount Olivet has tried to put God's love into words through Bible study, sermons, worship and music, and more. And for 106 years we have also tried to put God's love into action. Through the care we extend to our seniors to the guidance and love we offer our young people, through our ministries to our neighbors and outreach around the country and globe, we are trying to accept God's invitation to love not only in word but also in deed.

It's vital that we all understand that the whole of Mount Olivet's ministry is supported by your gifts, your pledges, your generosity. And when I ask you to give generously – and I will be asking that! – it's not simply to support our work to put God's love into action, but also so that your joy may be complete. Especially if you have not given in the past, or your giving is more of an afterthought than intentional commitment, I ask you to see what happens when you love others through your generosity. You will be surprised by what God does with your gift, both to help others and to multiply your joy, trust, faith, and love.

Thank you for helping us continue to put God's love into action!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR



CONNECT AT MOUNT OLIVET!

There are so many ways to connect at church, we wanted to feature all of our opportunities to gather in fellowship and learn in one place so you may consider how you can engage at Mount Olivet this Fall! Our fellowship ministry offers our members and non-member friends a place to feel welcomed, fulfilled, and connected through a variety of large and small groups. These groups provide an opportunity for gathering together to build relationships with others while centering on our shared faith. For questions about fellowship groups contact Julie Reece, at julier@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2260. All of this information is also available at mtolivet.org.

FLYING SOLO: Flying Solo is a fellowship group for Mount Olivet singles ages 50+. Join us for fun events! Watch for new events to be posted on the events page at mtolivet.org approximately every 4-6 weeks with adviser Pastor Freeman.

FRIENDS FOREVER: Friends Forever is a social and service-oriented group consisting of anyone 60+. The mission is to: enhance our relationship with Christ and each other; grow spiritually; be enlightened through learning and sharing; and enjoy fellowship and friends with adviser Pastor Hammersten.

MOTORHEADS: Motorheads is a group that loves engines and the Lord. Our mission is to enhance believing, belonging, and becoming by providing spiritual and social opportunities and by encouraging seekers to connect with Mount Olivet, so they can come to know the good news of Jesus Christ who cares about every aspect of our lives – even our love for engines! There are three Motorheads events throughout the year: Motorheads @ Le Chateau in March, Motorheads @ Mtka Drive-In in June, and Motorheads Show & Blessing of Vehicles & Drivers in August with adviser Pastor Kalland.

MOUNT OLIVET CHURCH WOMEN (MOCW): MOCW is the organization that unifies all women of Mount Olivet. Our mission is to make connections through fellowship and provide service opportunities that create a community at Mount Olivet to enhance believing, belonging, and becoming. There are circles, events, and volunteer opportunities with adviser Pastor Lose.

MEN'S MINISTRY: Mount Olivet Men's Breakfasts are an opportunity to get together weekly to discuss current events, hear guest speakers, or participate in Bible study. Reservations are not necessary – come when you can and invite a friend. This group meets on Mondays at 7am at Hilltop Restaurant in Edina, and on Thursdays at 7am at American Legion in Chanhassen with adviser Pastor Kalland.

CAREER & CALLING: Are you looking for opportunities to grow professionally, network with others, and listen for God's will for your work life? Career & Calling supports you at any stage of your career with inspiration, fellowship, and learning. The Career & Calling group meets once a month, October through May, with adviser Pastor Lose.

YOUNG IN HEART & FRIENDS: This group is an opportunity for adults (70+) and friends to get together for lunch, fellowship, and entertainment year-round. The Young in Heart & Friends group meets once per month at the Mpls Campus with additional opportunities available including special events and service projects. All are welcome!

BIBLE STUDY

Our Adult Education program offers opportunities to explore individual books of the Bible, uncover key themes, and learn from the lives of biblical characters. You'll also find classes on our faith foundations like the Ten Commandments and on influential theologians — from Martin Luther to Dietrich Bonhoeffer — that challenge and inspire. There is a monthly Bible study and seasonal four week classes, these studies and other events are designed to deepen your faith and help you live it out every day. For questions about Bible Studies, contact Katie Stevenson, at katies@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2232.



LIFE & GROWTH

JUL 16 - AUG 14

BAPTISMS

Nash Parker Bates

son of Madeline and Christopher

Bjorn Joseph Bothwell

son of Amy and David

Valentine Nadine Bredeson

daughter of Jennifer and Perry

Ada Renee Cooley

daughter of Nicole and Daniel

Thomas Edward Cooley

son of Nicole and Daniel

Henley Jayne Freeman

daughter of Hannah and Ben

Paityn Rae Freeman

daughter of Hannah and Ben

Cecelia Jean Holt

daughter of Heather and James

Emma Ruth Jensen

daughter of Hannah and Matt

Lorelei Margaret Kelso

daughter of Martha and Christian

Aria Ann McGinty

daughter of Kortnie and Patrick

Sadie Rae McReavy Seitz

daughter of Abby and Jordan

Sybil Marie McReavy Seitz

daughter of Abby and Jordan

Elin Aquinnah Newell

daughter of Britta and Ryan

Elsie Mae Newell

daughter of Britta and Ryan

Isla Penelope Newell

daughter of Britta and Ryan

Lily Evelyn Newell

daughter of Britta and Ryan

Rhodes Chadwick Oettinger

son of Kennedy and Jakob

Anna Mae Richards

daughter of Meredith and Dan

Clark Oliver Semmann

son of Hannah and Noah

Adalyn Victoria Sime

daughter of Ashley and Kasey

Axel Graham Smith

son of Lesli and Joseph

Reid Jonah Varley

son of Emily and Eric

Wesley Philip Welter

son of Kaitlin and Samuel

Arden Sue Womeldorf

daughter of Liza and Zachary

Isla Margaret Wray

daughter of Sarah and Connor

WEDDINGS

Jennika Paulson & Christian Kunau

DEVOTION

"We love because God first loved us." – 1

John 4:19

This was the theme verse at Cathedral of the Pines Camp this summer. Throughout the week, we told the kids stories of Jesus' immense love for God's people and how our love in the world is a response to the love God has first shown us.

Heading into stewardship season, this verse feels similarly relevant. It encapsulates the heart and core of our giving. Just as God's love for us calls us to love others, God's giving to us does the same. You could even reprise the verse and say, "We give because God first gave to us." This is the heart of stewardship.

Contrary to popular belief, stewardship is not about giving a certain amount or making your pastor happy or even "being a good Christian" (whatever that is). Stewardship is about participating in the generous ways of our giving God. It's a response to the many gifts God has already showered over us. It's trusting in the abundance God has given and wanting to share that with others.

This September, I offer you this verse just as I offered it to the COP kids. God loved you and gave to you first, making it possible for you to love and give in response. Thanks be to God! — **PASTOR OLSON**



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!

If you have questions, or would like to know more about planned giving, please contact Peter Youngdahl at pyoungdahl@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2213.

LIFE & GROWTH CONTINUED

JUL 16 - AUG 14

DEATHS

Richard L. Erickson

Drew V. Fisher

Evodia M. Linner

Patricia J. Moran

June D. Morton

Dean L. Rosenow

Leland N. Sundet

Mark D. Van Gorp



Love IN ACTION

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

You are invited to take part in this Stewardship season 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 (or updating) your scheduled giving and/or making a pledge for the new year. Thank you!
- **Gather for a Stewardship meal**, where we will give thanks, enjoy fellowship, watch a joyful year-in-review video, hear from Pastor Lose, and celebrate all that God has done (and is doing!) among us.

STEWARDSHIP MEALS

Register online at mtolivet.org, by calling 612.926.7651, at church, or using the QR Code below! We look forward to seeing you!

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

PLEDGE

Please take time to pause, pray, and make your 2027 commitment to Mount Olivet. To make your 2027 pledge:

- Use the PLEDGE QR Code
- Complete the pledge card you received in the mail in August
- Go online to mtolivet.org/stewardship
- Contact Tricia Lerohl-Morgan, Coordinator of Financial Records, at tricial@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2255
- *If you fulfill your pledge via scheduled giving, please update your scheduled giving to reflect your 2027 pledge—it does not happen automatically. Thank you for taking this extra step!*



GIVE

Thank you to all who support Mount Olivet through scheduled giving. To set up or update your scheduled giving:

- Use the GIVE QR Code
- Visit mtolivet.org under GIVING
- Questions? Contact Tricia Lerohl-Morgan, Coordinator of Financial Records, at tricial@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2255
- *If you fulfill your pledge via scheduled giving, please update your scheduled giving to reflect your 2027 pledge—it does not happen automatically. Thank you for taking this extra step!*



QUESTIONS?

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



NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR DAY

In Luke 10, an expert in religious law asks Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus answers the lawyer’s question with the well-known parable of The Good Samaritan. This core story of faith shows us that a neighbor is not just the person living next door, but every person we meet. A neighbor is anyone who shows mercy, kindness, and love.

Called to love God by loving our neighbors, Mount Olivet kicked off 2026 with an intentional day of neighbor-ing. On Saturday, January 10, 2026, **almost 100 people** showed up for our very first Neighbor to Neighbor Day. The Director of Culinary Services, Sally McNamee, and her incredible kitchen team cooked

an amazing breakfast for us as we shared devotions and learned about five of our community ministry partners – Pastor Scott’s Inner-City Ministry, Community Emergency Service, Lutheran Social Service, Love INC, and Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery. We then divided into five volunteer groups and headed to these ministry sites to learn even more, serve in some way, and get to know our neighbors.

It was a life-giving day for all. We built community, met new neighbors and put faith into action.

And it inspired us to do it again in 2027! Please join us and invite a friend or two to join in the fun!

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 2ND ANNUAL NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR DAY!

Saturday, January 16, 2027, 8:30am-12:00noon, Mpls Campus Fellowship Hall and Community Partner Sites

Join us for breakfast, devotions, and community partner introductions at church. From there, we will head to community partner service sites to volunteer. This year we are excited to highlight Pastor Scott’s Inner-City Ministry, CES (Community Emergency Service), Lutheran Social Services, Mercado Central, Sanneh Foundation, and Love INC (Love In the Name of Christ). Neighbor to Neighbor Day is family friendly. All ages are welcome. No childcare provided. Transportation from church to the volunteer locations is on your own; however if this is a barrier, please contact Pastor Freeman at rffreeman@mtolivet.org or Laurie Hancer at lhancer@mtolivet.org.



PUT YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION: VOLUNTEER

There are many ways for you to help make Mount Olivet a warm and welcoming place for all. We are seeking all types of volunteers who wish to be part of the many different teams that welcome and assist those who walk through our doors to enjoy services, events, or fellowship. We would be delighted to help you find the perfect volunteer team for your passion!

USHERS: Be the first to greet guests and members as they attend church. This meaningful role not only supports our worship experience but also fosters deep and lasting friendships among team members.

Mpls Campus: Julie Reece, julier@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2260

West Campus: Jody Barbee, jbarbee@mtolivet.org or 952.767.1501

PARKING LOT ATTENDANTS: Help those attending services and/or special events to find parking quickly and easily. These volunteers enjoy being outside with a fun community of people who love assisting those who drive to church.

Mpls Campus: Julie Reece, julier@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2260

West Campus: Jody Barbee, jbarbee@mtolivet.org or 952.767.1501

ALTAR GUILD: A dedicated group of members who take joy in working behind the scenes to prepare communion elements and other items essential for worship. These faithful servants enhance our sacred spaces and ensure that everything is ready for meaningful experiences such as baptisms, communion, seasonal decorating, and other special services throughout the year. This is the ideal volunteer opportunity for individuals who prefer flexibility and want to establish their own schedule.

Mpls Campus: Beverly Claffin, beverlyc@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2263

West Campus: Jody Barbee, jbarbee@mtolivet.org or 952.767.1501

PEW GUILD: Volunteers meet on select Saturday mornings throughout the year. They work together to keep our worship spaces fresh and ready for every service, while building community with others who take joy in making our sacred spaces tidy, clean, and beautiful for all who enter!

Mpls Campus: Samantha Mpaulo, smpaulo@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2200

West Campus: Jody Barbee, jbarbee@mtolivet.org or 952.767.1501

COMMUNITY MEAL DRIVERS: Help deliver meals from our weekly Community Meal to those not able to get to church. Substitute drivers needed on a regular basis and are notified in advance. Timing is Thursday afternoons. Contact: Stephanie McGinty at smcginty@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2209

FOOD SERVICE VOLUNTEERS: Mount Olivet kitchen staff and volunteers prepare and serve food to hundreds of people each week in our fantastic kitchen and welcome Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are always needed to set tables, prepare food, serve meals, and assist our chefs before, during, and after events. The Dorcas Society hosts funeral receptions and uses volunteers to help prepare and serve refreshments following a funeral or memorial service.

Contact: Sally McNamee at smcnamee@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2222

PRAYER MINISTRY: A daily prayer team that receives weekly prayer requests that are prayed for one week until the next set of prayers is received. Extremely flexible with prayer occurring on your own schedule. Contact: Stephanie McGinty at smcginty@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2209

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Volunteers at both campuses knit or crochet prayer shawls using provided yarn and patterns. Finished shawls are provided by Congregational Care to those in need of comfort and extra support. This is a flexible volunteer opportunity as knitting/crocheting can be done at home at your own pace. Fellowship opportunities are offered at each campus on a monthly basis. Contact: Stephanie McGinty at smcginty@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2209

SPRING AND WINTER HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE AND LUNCHEON: Volunteer drivers offer rides and companionship to this special worship service and delicious lunch to members who are unable to attend church often. This event happens on a Saturday morning in May and in early December. Contact: Nancy Nelson at nnelson@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2288

GARDEN CLUB: Care for the grounds and potted plants around the Mpls Campus. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved, no experience necessary — from planting, watering, pruning, and weeding. Whether you have a love of flowers and gardening or simply enjoy being outdoors and lending a hand. Contact: Lisa Boss at Lisaboss1230@gmail.com or 612.850.3848.

LIVING THE MESSAGE: WHAT DID JESUS DO?

Perhaps you remember the wristbands that were so popular a few years back. Bright yellow, with the letters WWJD emblazoned across them. That stood for “What Would Jesus Do?” to remind the folks wearing those wristbands to try to conform their lives to Jesus’ example. Many of your Mount Olivet pastors remember those wristbands too, though few, if any, wore them. Why? Because we are convinced that a far more important question is “What DID Jesus Do?” That is, the Christian faith is less about ethics and morality than God’s grace and love, which in turn shapes both who we are and what we do.

For this reason, multiple Mount Olivet pastors are teaming up to teach this year’s *Living the Message* class, each choosing stories from the Gospels that they feel illustrate what Jesus actually did that reveals the heart of God for us and all the world and, in turn, shapes how we live with each other. Join us as it promises to be a fun, surprising, and faith-enriching experience.

Over the course of eight months, our pastors will answer the question of what Jesus did (and does!) in a variety of ways:

Jesus Makes a Splash: Exorcisms, Sermons, and Weddings, Oh My! with Pastor Lose (October 6)

Jesus Reveals Who We Are: On Swords and Divided Families with Pastor Dixon (November 10)

Jesus Frustrates People: More Than Meets Our Eyes with Pastor Cieslik (December 1)

Jesus Isn’t Fair: Bad Friends and Poor Choices with Pastor Lose (January 5)

Jesus Learns a Lesson: Going to the Dogs with Pastor Grangaard (February 2)

Jesus Loves Others and Asks Us to Love Also: The New Commandment with Pastor Olson (March 2)

Jesus Recommissions Failed Disciples: Breakfast on the Beach with Rev. Dr. Theresa Latini (April 6)

Jesus Dies for Us, Now What?: The Ending No One Wanted with Pastor Lose (May 4)

Living the Message classes are held from 6:30-7:30pm at the Mpls Campus on the first Tuesday of the month, except November which will be on the second Tuesday of the month. The classes in November and April, will be held at the West Campus. Also available via monthly emailed videos.

OCTOBER LIVING THE MESSAGE

Jesus Makes a Splash: Exorcisms, Sermons, and Weddings, Oh My! with Pastor Lose

Mark 1:21-28, Matthew 5:1-2, Luke 4:16-30, John 2:1-11

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

Each of the four Evangelists tells the story of Jesus in a distinct way. That is particularly true of their depiction of the start of Jesus’ public ministry, as each begins with a very different story. Why? Because first things matter. And as you dive into the stories each Evangelist tells, you get a sense of how each one understands Jesus – his mission and message. Join us for a tour through the opening stories of the four Gospels and be introduced to the one who all four Evangelists acknowledge as our Lord and Savior.

GOD WITH US: A LEVITICUS STORY

What does it mean to begin again and live well with God and one another? Explore these questions through the surprising beauty of Leviticus. Picking up in the wilderness after Exodus, this class reveals a God who dwells among God’s people and calls us into holy, renewed lives. Join Pastor Olson and Pastor Grangaard for a deeper look at this rich and meaningful story.

MPLS: Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30am in Room 207, **WEST:** Thursdays, 10:30-11:30am in the Rehearsal Hall, **ONLINE:** via weekly videos sent out one week after the Mpls class dates.

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

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

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

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.

ALL ABOUT SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Each week during Sunday School, children of all ages will be greeted by their expert music teachers and volunteer staff as they enter their classroom spaces. Throughout class, they will spend time learning and practicing faith-based music, reading the Bible story of the day, hearing from our Mount Olivet pastors in the weekly *Going God's Way* video, and more! Crafts, art, games, and community-building activities are included as well.

CHERUB SUNDAY

SCHOOL: Our youngest groups of preschool-aged children taught by:

Mpls: Colleen Roess, Mary Ellen Broge, Amee LiaBraaten, Mickey Porter, Laurie Beise, and Bill Beise.

West: Dana Donnay

ALLELUIA SUNDAY

SCHOOL: Kindergarten and 1st Grade classes, taught by:

Mpls: Katie Widen

West: Sarah Fincham

HOSANNA SUNDAY

SCHOOL: 2nd & 3rd Grade classes, taught by:

Mpls: Elizabeth Werness

West: Sydney Gramstad

CHAPEL SUNDAY

SCHOOL: 4th & 5th Grade classes, taught by:

Mpls: Rachel Wixson

West: Kari Werdahl

Registration is open online and we invite those who have not yet registered to join us for a fantastic year in Sunday School!

NEW! SUPPORTIVE PARENTING IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Hey Middle School Parents, Wednesday nights at Mount Olivet aren't just for your kids! We are excited to bring parent educator, Sarah Hardy (see bio below), to Mount Olivet to help us focus on a variety of current parenting topics. On the five dates below, we'll gather at the Mpls Campus, enjoy a meal, and spend time on the good (and sometimes difficult) work of parenting. Each evening will be a stand-alone topic, and we invite you to join us for one evening, or all five! Information about these events is available at mtolivet.org.



NOVEMBER 11: *Strengthening Parent-Child Connectedness: The most potent protective factor for child and adolescent mental health*

DECEMBER 2: *Avoiding Overindulgence: Raising kids who appreciate a bounty*

JANUARY 13: *Parenting in a World Saturated with Media, Technology, Algorithms, and AI*

MARCH 3: *Raising Healthy Strivers: Managing achievement pressure when nothing feels like enough*

APRIL 21: *Supporting Healthy Friendships: Helping kids grow authentic, nourishing connections with peers*

Sarah Hardy mentors and supports parents of children ages 0-18 in both group parent education and private coaching. She worked in early childhood (ECFE) for several years before founding Generations Parenting Support (GPS), through which last year alone she supported over eighty parents across seven groups such as "Parenting Middle School Boys" or a book study of Dr. Lisa Damour's recently updated *Untangled: Guiding Teenage Girls Through the Seven Transitions into Adulthood*. Sarah strives to stay current on evidence-based information and advice from experts in their field (psychology, education, technology, etc.) and interpret that guidance to specifically attend to the parents in her community of Edina and SW Minneapolis. She believes that parenting is work, worthy of study, care, and reflection, and work worthy of being seen and valued. Sarah is committed to supporting all parents and caregivers and affirms all families.

Sarah holds a BA from Stanford University in Human Biology and an M.Ed. from the University of Minnesota in Parent and Family Education. She is a MN licensed Parent Educator. She and her husband Rick Hardy have been happily married for 28 years and parent two young adult children of their own.



A Legacy of Trust, a Future of Impact

For more than 60 years, Mount Olivet Rolling Acres (MORA) and Mount Olivet Lutheran Church have shared a commitment to caring for our neighbors and strengthening our community. Together, we believe every person, regardless of ability or circumstance, deserves dignity, connection, purpose, and belonging.

As an independent nonprofit serving communities across Minnesota, MORA is deeply grateful for this longstanding partnership and for the many people who have supported our mission through the years. Every day, we see lives transformed. A child experiencing a mental health crisis finds safety. An adult with a developmental disability gains confidence and independence. Someone who once felt isolated discovers friendship and purpose. These moments may not make headlines, but they change lives because people choose to invest in one another.

As needs continue to grow, so does our commitment to being faithful stewards of every resource entrusted to us. Nearly all of MORA's operating funding comes from federal and state programs, making accountability central to everything we do. Through strong financial oversight, rigorous compliance, regular audits, and trusted partnerships, we ensure resources are used responsibly to support children, adults, and families. That commitment has earned MORA recognition as a leader in compliance and quality across Minnesota.

Andrea's story reflects the impact of that care.

When Andrea first came to MORA's Day Support Services, she enjoyed spending time with her favorite magazines and preferred quieter moments throughout the day. MORA staff took the time to get to know her interests, build trust, and encourage her at her own pace. With consistent support and encouragement, Andrea began trying new things and celebrating small successes. What started with tentative steps grew into community outings, walks in local parks, and opportunities to connect with the world around her. As her confidence increased, so did her willingness to embrace new experiences. Andrea's love of magazines became a bridge to friendship and conversation, helping her build meaningful relationships with staff and peers. She has also become an enthusiastic participant in activities, especially games like ring toss, bean bags, and cornhole, where her excitement brings energy and fun to those around her. Today, Andrea enjoys spending time with friends, participating in activities, and embracing new opportunities. Her journey reflects the power of connection, encouragement, and belonging.

While public funding makes essential services possible, it rarely covers the experiences that bring connection, independence, and joy or keeps pace with rising costs. That's where volunteers, advocates, and donors make an extraordinary difference. Their generosity helps provide community outings, Camp McGregor vacations, adaptive equipment, home improvements, recreation programs, and creative activities that enrich lives in lasting ways. As we look ahead, MORA's commitment remains the same: providing compassionate, person-centered care while growing thoughtfully to meet our communities' changing needs.

We invite you to stay connected by visiting moracares.org to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter. Then join us for *Masterpieces at the Manor* on Sunday, October 25, a celebration of the creativity of the people we serve. More information on page 15. Together, we can continue building a community where every person is welcomed, valued, and celebrated.



INTRODUCING THE 2026-2027 HI-LEAGUE PRESIDENTS AND VICE PRESIDENTS

PRESIDENTS

I am most looking forward to all of the traditions we have at church like singing in the Christmas Concert and working at the Pumpkin Patch! I'm also excited to be a leader at my favorite Hi-League events like bowling and Sharegroups. I am looking forward to welcoming everyone at church whether it's their hundredth time at choir, or their first.

**CLAIRE PACYNA, MPLS CAMPUS
SENIOR AT EDINA HIGH SCHOOL**



This year at church, I am looking forward to meeting new people and welcoming them into our fantastic community. I'm also excited to continue to grow the friendships that I have made during my years at church. Some specific things that I can't wait for this year are the Christmas Concert, the choir trip, the Sunday morning donuts, and the chance to take home the MO Hoops championship! I'm hoping to use my platform as president to maintain a supportive and welcoming community at the West Campus!

**STELLAN FREEMAN, WEST CAMPUS
SENIOR AT MOUNDS VIEW HIGH SCHOOL**



VICE PRESIDENTS

I am looking forward to all of the Hi-League events but more specifically Sharegroups. Sharegroups is a great time to build friendships that I don't already have and grow deeper connections with the people I am already close with. It's also a good opportunity to get to know the youth staff even more!

**GRANT GOUDY, MPLS CAMPUS
SENIOR AT EDINA HIGH SCHOOL**



One of the things I look most forward to at church is Sharegroups! It gives me the opportunity to connect with my peers while also deepening my faith. I love hanging out with my church friends, the youth staff, and pastors.

**COOPER FOSTER, WEST CAMPUS
SENIOR AT CHASKA HIGH SCHOOL**



FEATURED EVENTS

BRUNCH WITH US!

Sunday, October 4, between services, Mpls & West Campuses

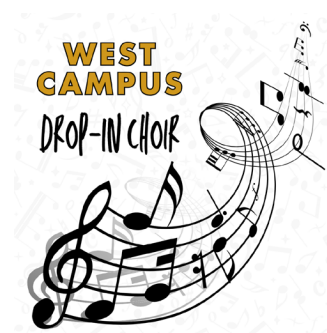
Your church wants to celebrate our members being a part of our community of faith, volunteering their time, participating in programming, and steadfast generosity; therefore, Sunday brunch is on us! Join us after worship for food and fellowship. Brunch items include egg sandwiches from our amazing kitchen and crepes from La Belle Crepe. No registration necessary!



WEST CAMPUS DROP-IN CHOIR

Sunday, October 4,
10-11:30am, West Campus

Have a free Sunday morning? Come sing with the West Campus Sanctuary Choir! No long-term commitment, just a chance to make music, meet new people, and help lead worship. Whether you're a seasoned singer or simply love to sing, we'd be delighted to have you. Just show up, rehearse, and sing! Everyone is welcome.



FIKA MUSIC SERIES: RHAPSODY & SONG: THE MUSIC OF GEORGE GERSHWIN

Sunday, October 11, 2-3pm,
Mpls Campus

Celebrate the genius of George Gershwin in a program that bridges the worlds of the concert hall and Broadway. Featuring the virtuosic four-hand piano version of Rhapsody in Blue and a selection of Gershwin's most cherished songs for voice and piano, this concert captures the spirit of the American Jazz Age.



ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOPS

Tuesday, October 13,
5:45-7:30pm, West Campus
OR

Wednesday, October 14,
9:45-11:30am, Mpls Campus

Take the next step toward peace of mind for yourself and the people you love. Whether you're creating your first estate plan or looking for practical guidance to refresh an existing one, these sessions are designed for everyone. Hosted by the Development Team. Register at mtolivet.org.



ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE: WHAT IT IS AND WHAT CAN BE DONE

Tuesday, October 13, 9:30-11:30am, Mpls Campus

Presented by Joseph Gaugler, PhD, Robert L. Kane Endowed Chair in Long-Term Care and Aging and a Professor at the University of Minnesota. We invite you to join Dr. Gaugler for an insightful and encouraging presentation on Alzheimer's disease. Together, you'll learn the facts about what it is, how it differs from normal aging, explore the warning signs, gain a better understanding of the disease and its progression, learn current strategies, what treatment is available, and resources to help navigate the journey with confidence and compassion. Exhibitors and light refreshments available. Register at mtolivet.org.



UPCOMING AT MOUNT OLIVET

SEPTEMBER 2026

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

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Thursdays, September 3 and September 17, 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.

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.

YOUNG IN HEART & FRIENDS STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON

Friday, September 18, 12noon, Mpls Campus

Join us for Stewardship Lunch, reservations required online at mtolivet.org, or by calling church at 612.926.7651.

ART CLASS: DRAWING BASICS

Tuesday, September 22, 6-8pm, West Campus, \$45

In this beginner-friendly class, you'll explore fundamental drawing and observation skills while getting familiar with the basic tools and supplies you'll need to start your artistic journey. Leave with a simple still-life drawing and confidence in your ability to see and draw like an artist!

FLYING SOLO: HAPPY HOUR AT NICOS

Sunday, October 4, 4-6pm, Nico's Tacos + Agave Bar

Join us for an informal happy hour at Nico's to meet new people, connect with old friends, and enjoy great conversation! The cost is whatever you order off the menu. Come and hang out with your Flying Solo Friends in a relaxed setting! We look forward to seeing you!

STARGAZING

Friday, October 9, 6-10pm, Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center

Come out for a fall night of wonder under the stars with retired meteorologist Mike Lynch. Concessions available for purchase before the free program and viewing.

FALL VOLUNTEER DAY

Saturday, October 24, 9-3pm, Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center

Help prepare the grounds for the winter season and then enjoy a meal from our kitchen and delight in any indoor and outdoor amenities.

MOUNT OLIVET ROLLING ACRES: MASTERPIECES AT THE MANOR

Sunday, October 25, 3-5:30pm, Edward Anne Estate at Bavaria Downs in Chaska, \$75

You are warmly invited to Masterpieces at the Manor, a beautiful afternoon celebrating the creativity, talents, and stories of the individuals supported by Mount Olivet Rolling Acres (MORA). This special fundraising event will showcase one-of-a-kind works of art created by MORA residents and program participants. Throughout the afternoon, guests will enjoy butler-passed gourmet hors d'oeuvres, thoughtfully selected wines, a silent auction, and the opportunity to enjoy art and the creativity of MORA residents in a unique and elegant setting. Learn more and register at moracares.org.

ART CLASS: NO FEAR OIL PAINTING - FALL COLORS

Tuesday, October 27, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus, \$45

Have you ever wanted to experience the joy of painting with oils but been afraid to try? In this class, you will create a beautiful fall-themed painting on an 8 x 10 inch canvas following step-by-step instructions all while learning about the paints and other tools needed to create an oil painting.



5025 KNOX AVENUE SOUTH • MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55419-1095

PERIODICALS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES, MN

Mount Olivet Messenger

USPS 365-500

Published monthly by

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church

5025 Knox Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55419-1095

Periodicals postage paid at

St. Paul, MN

POSTMASTER

Send address changes to

Mount Olivet Messenger

5025 Knox Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55419-1095

STEWARDSHIP 2027



*Love
IN
ACTION*

REGISTER FOR A MEAL TODAY!

To register visit mtolivet.org, call church at 612.926.7651, or in-person at either campus!