

NOVEMBER 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

11am

**WATCH THE MPLS
WORSHIP SERVICE AT
MTOLIVET.ORG**

9, 10, 11am

HOLY COMMUNION
8:30 & 11:45am

NURSERY
9, 10, 11am

NOVEMBER 1

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
GOD CALLS DAVID

1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-13

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

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

NOVEMBER 8

THE PROPHET NATHAN
CONFRONTS THE KING

2 Samuel 12:1-9

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Hammersten
MUSIC Chapel & Sanctuary
Choirs, Chris Staebell,
mezzo soprano

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Grangaard
MUSIC Mpls & West Campus
Combined Cathedral
& Sanctuary Choirs

NOVEMBER 15

SOLOMON'S WISDOM
1 Kings 3: 5-9

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

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

FIRST COMMUNION
W 1pm

NOVEMBER 22

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY
KING JOSIAH FINDS
THE BOOK OF THE
COVENANT
2 Kings 22-23

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

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Dixon
MUSIC Cathedral & Chancel
Choirs

FIRST COMMUNION

M 1pm

NOVEMBER 25

THANKSGIVING EVE

M 6pm
SERMON Pastor Dixon
MUSIC Cathedral, Cathedral
Alumni, & Sanctuary
Choirs

W 6pm
SERMON Pastor Cieslik
MUSIC Cathedral, Cathedral
Alumni, & Sanctuary
Choirs

NOVEMBER 29

GABRIEL VISITS MARY
Luke 1:26-38

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

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

Grateful for Good Partners!

There is a principle in physics called “constructive amplification” that describes how two distinct waves – whether of water, sound, or light – combine to create a much more powerful force than the sum of their respective parts. For instance, if two waves in the ocean happen to coincide, while their height will be twice that of either one (the combination of the two), the force of energy they offer will actually be four times stronger, doubling their combined force.

If you’re wondering why I’m starting this month’s letter with a brief physics lesson, it’s to capture my belief in, and gratitude for, the “constructive amplification” that occurs when we partner with other ministries. During this past stewardship season – and thank you to all who have made a pledge or gift; it really matters! – I had a chance to share some of what we’ve been able to accomplish through local partners. These include the two sets of food lockers we helped Community Emergency Services design, purchase and install to make it possible for working families to access food 24/7. Or consider the 150,000+ meals we were able to pack and distribute to families across the greater metro through our partner Meals from the Heart. Or the vanloads of toiletries, non-perishable food, and other essentials that good partners like Love INC and VEAP help us get to neighbors. So many good things happen through these partnerships!

The constructive amplification doesn’t stop with our partners in the Twin Cities. For instance, a few years ago we joined a partnership of congregations working to erase the crushing force of medical debt. Since then, the \$81,000 Mount Olivet members have donated has translated to \$6,512,551 of medical debt forgiven, changing the lives of more than 6,700 families. Nationally, this group – called “Thee Alliance” – has canceled nearly \$145,000,000 of debt for more than 150,000 families. That’s amplification!

Globally, we get to amplify our force through the work of Lutheran World Relief (LWR). I have served on the Board of this 80-year-old institution for the past decade and have seen it grow from a \$50M per year organization focused exclusively on disaster relief and agricultural development, to a \$150M per year outfit that focuses on clean water, health, education, impact investing, and

more. Which means that a percentage of your gifts to Mount Olivet help children have access to life-changing educational opportunities in Sierra Leone and to life-saving healthcare in Nepal. Over the years, LWR has become a trusted partner of foundations, corporations, and governments around the globe in order to maximize our ability to respond to human disaster and profound need with God’s love.

A favorite verse for weddings comes from the Book of Ecclesiastes: *Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken* (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).

God created us to be in community because community is powerful. We feel it every time we come together for worship, education, service, or fellowship. And we see it in the ministries of faithful partners here, across the country, and around the globe. So as we approach Thanksgiving, know that chief among those things for which I will give thanks are you and your generosity, this congregation and its commitment to put God’s love into action, and the faithful work of our partners that multiplies – or, better, constructively amplifies! – our reach and impact. Thank you! Even more, thank God *for* you!

See you in church!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR

PS: This year, our Thanksgiving offering will be shared with LWR and Thee Alliance. If you would like to make any additional gifts to these or other ministries, you can direct them to Mount Olivet anytime during the year and we will make sure they go to our partners.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 8:30-11AM, BOTH CAMPUSES

Support our ministry partners in their hunger relief initiatives by bringing non-perishable food items or monetary donations to either campus. Donations will benefit CES at the Mpls Campus and Bountiful Basket at the West Campus.

FRIENDS FOREVER FALL DINNER

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 5:30-7PM, MPLS CAMPUS, \$15

If you're looking to meet new friends and get involved with a great group of Mount Olivet people, please join us for a traditional turkey dinner complete with all the fixings! This 60+ group loves having fun and serving our church! If you'd like to register or receive information about upcoming events, please contact Julie Reece at julier@mtolivet.org 612.767.2260.

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 6PM, MPLS & WEST CAMPUSES

Join us for a heartwarming Thanksgiving Eve service at the Mpls or West Campuses. Come and enjoy the music provided by the current Cathedral Choir and college-aged Cathedral Choir alumni, as well as a special combined Sanctuary and Cathedral Choir anthem. Our high school students will share reflections on thankfulness, offering us a chance to reflect on the blessings in our lives. We look forward to sharing this special worship service with you!

HI-ER LEAGUE (AGES 18-22) THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP & PIZZA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 6-8PM, MPLS CAMPUS, FREE

We've missed you, Hi-er Leaguers! If you've been feeling a little homesick (or church-sick?), swing by the Youth Center for some fellowship with Pastor Dixon, Geoff, and other members of the youth staff for a slice of home (and pizza) after the Thanksgiving Eve Worship. Dr. Claflin is inviting you back into the choir loft at either campus! If you'd like to sing, rehearsal is at 5pm, worship is at 6pm, and please wear your old familiar blue Cathedral Choir shirt. Tell your church friends!

HOLIDAY BUTTER BRAID SALES

Mount Olivet will be selling Butter Braids for your Thanksgiving and Christmas enjoyment! Please see the details below to find out how you can get your Butter Braids for the holiday season. All proceeds directly benefit Mount Olivet Homes.

If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Hancer at lhancer@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2267.

THANKSGIVING BUTTER BRAID SALES

Butter Braid sales for Thanksgiving will take place on-site at the Holiday Boutique on Saturday, November 7, at the Mpls Campus and at the Holiday Market on Saturday, November 14, at the West Campus.

CHRISTMAS BUTTER BRAID SALES

Orders will be taken online through November 22. Order pick-up will take place on Sunday, December 6, from 9-11am at the campus you selected in your order.



LIFE & GROWTH

SEP 17 - OCT 14

BAPTISMS

Marcie Josephine Berg
daughter of Sarah and Tyler

Jack Stanley Carlson
son of Allison and Adam

Colby Croix Dietrich
daughter of Britney and Andrew

Jamie Sword Farnan
son of Kylie and Jack

Hallie Mae Gahn
daughter of Samantha and Marcus

Summer Susan Gahn
daughter of Samantha and Marcus

Landon Lucas Hagness
son of Jenifer and Lucas

Lillian Marie Hagness
daughter of Jenifer and Lucas

Noah Benjamin Hagness
son of Jenifer and Lucas

Adeline Elizabeth Hart
daughter of Brooke and Nicholas

Morgan Paige Judd
daughter of Allison and Scott

Clara Jo LaRose
daughter of Sarah and Andy

Henry LaRose
son of Sarah and Andy

Rhett Michael Morin
son of Brittany and Michael

Islay Jeanette Perrin
daughter of Erianna and Joseph

Blaire Marie Pung
daughter of Amanda and Tyler

Eli Jonathan Reid
son of Katie and Jon

Beatrice Marie Seymore
daughter of Susan and Cameron

Finn Edward Swanson
son of Elsa and Gunnar

Dane Alexander Wheeler
son of Kelli and Alexander

DEATHS

Paul R. Bickel

Mary A. Buc

Lawrence B. Dirlam

Marlys Evanson

Barbara L. Fredrickson

Grant R. Holtan

Connie L. Johnston

Karen A. Mills

June A. Nellis

Marjorie A. Rishavy

Ronald J. Sams

David G. Seidel

Connie G. Swendseen

DEVOTION

When I was somewhere between twelve and fifteen, my mom had everyone at the table say one thing they appreciated about me. I can't remember if it was a birthday or another milestone. There were only six of us: my family and my mom's parents. I squirmed under the attention. Then it was my grandpa's turn, and he began to cry.

He couldn't find the words to say how much our relationship meant to him, a relationship that meant just as much to me. Embarrassed, he jokingly scolded my mom for making us do this. But the words didn't need to come out right. I knew what I felt was true. His clumsy, tearful words helped me trust the love I already felt.

That is witnessing: describing, however awkwardly, where you've seen goodness, love, and God in the world. It's what the psalmists mean when they call us to give praise. God doesn't need to hear nice things about himself. We speak so that others might come to trust they are loved, and know what is already true in their hearts.

So in this season of gratitude, with whom can you share your words of thanks, no matter how clumsy they might be?

— PASTOR CIESLIK



NEW MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES

NEW MEMBER LUNCHEONS

Sunday, November 1, 12noon-1:30pm, West Campus

Sunday, November 8, 12noon-1:30pm, Mpls Campus

Mount Olivet offers a tremendous number of worship services, fellowship groups, service opportunities, educational programs, and events. Exploring the possibility of joining Mount Olivet is as easy as contacting Katie Lose and attending an informative new member luncheon to find out what it means to be a member of this amazing congregation! You'll meet the pastors, staff, members of the Board of Life and Growth, and connect with other people who are joining Mount Olivet.

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Sunday, November 22, Mpls & West Campuses

New members will be welcomed and recognized during worship services.

If you have questions about membership or to register for a luncheon, please contact Katie Lose at 612.767.2287 or klose@mtolivet.org.

LIFE & GROWTH CONTINUED: SEP 17 - OCT 14

WEDDINGS

Stephanie Stathopolous & Kenneth Green

Kellis Brandt & Ian Taylor

Caitlin Edwards & Ethan Green

Noelle Drapeau & Blake Ochoa

Nichole Mannchen & James Hannack

Kerry DePalma & John Lundberg

Lindsay Dohmen & Ross Jones



MOCW HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE & HOLIDAY MARKET

Join us for the MOCW Holiday Boutique and Holiday Market featuring fine art, crafts, pottery, jewelry, home decor, culinary gifts, “Dala House” kids-only shopping, and more! This event is a fundraiser for Mount Olivet, each vendor is asked to donate a percentage of sales back to church. Thank you in advance for your support!

96TH MOCW LUTEFISK DINNER

DINNER DETAILS

Friday, December 4, 3-7PM, Mpls Campus, \$30 adults, \$10 for kids 12 & under

Join us for the 96th Lutfisk Dinner. The all you can eat buffet includes: lutfisk, Swedish meatballs, rutabagas, boiled potatoes, pickled beets, and yes of course... butter or white sauce! **Advance ticket sales are requested at mtolivet.org starting November 1.**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Each year, this dinner hosts more than 1,400 people. What makes this dinner so special is the many hands that help put the meal together — and we need your help! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Heather Goudy, Lutfisk Chair and MOCW President, at heathergoudy@hotmail.com with the times and job you'd like to help with.

LUTEFISK VOLUNTEERS AVAILABLE SHIFTS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30: 12noon Scooping Cookie Dough

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1: 12noon Rolling Meatballs & Scooping Cookie Dough

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2: 12noon Rolling Meatballs

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3: 9am Making Rutabagas

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4: 9am Table Setting and Lefse Rolling, 1pm Cooking Lutfisk, 2:30-5pm, 5-7pm, or 2:30-7pm Server/Busser, Buffet Servers, Plate Scrapers, and Coffee/Water Attendants





Christmas For All

**SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER THIS
HOLIDAY SEASON BY MAKING A TIME,
GIFT, OR MONETARY DONATION!**

DONATIONS ACCEPTED:

Sunday, November 1 through Wednesday,
December 2 at the Mpls & West Campuses.

EVERYONE is invited to spread Christmas cheer by participating in our 8th Annual Christmas for All! We will be hosting a Christmas for All store for Love INC families at the West Campus. Individuals will be able to sign up and shop for their loved ones on Saturday, 12/5, from 11am-3pm. In addition to the Love INC store, your Christmas for All donations will support Christmas stores at Redeemer Lutheran Church and Southside Family Nurturing Center, as well as a coat drive at Community Emergency Service (CES).

GIVE A GIFT Donated gifts must be new, unwrapped, and in the \$5-\$40 range. A list of suggested items can be found to the left.

DONATE You can make monetary donations by giving to the "Christmas for All" fund via your Realm account, by writing a check to Mount Olivet with "Christmas for All" in the memo line, or by visiting mtolivet.org.

VOLUNTEER Help is needed transporting gifts to the West Campus prior to the event and assisting at the event on 12/5. Visit mtolivet.org to sign up to volunteer. If you have questions, please contact Laurie Hancer at lhancer@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2267.

Gift Suggestions

ONLY NEW ITEMS ACCEPTED

GIFTS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, AND ADULTS:

ALL AGES

Arts & Crafts Kits
Winter Coats

ELECTRONICS

Bluetooth Speakers
Charging Banks
Ear Buds
Headphones
Phone Accessories

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Bakeware
Batteries
Blankets and Throws
Cookware
Dish Sets
Small Appliances
Small Tool Kits
Towel Sets

SPORTING GOODS

Basketballs
Baseballs
Footballs

Pickleball Paddles/Sets

Soccer Balls
Scooters
Sleds

TEENS/ADULTS

Athletic/Work Socks
Blankets & Throws
Curling Iron/Straightener
Cosmetic Bag
Electric Razors
Hair dryer
Hoodies (Sizes: M-XL)
Male/Female Hygiene Kits
Men's Hair Gel/Styling
Cream

TOYS

Baby Toys
Building Blocks
Cars/Trucks

Interactive Learning Toys

Lego Sets
Musical Toys

GAMES

Electronic Games
Educational Games

\$20 GIFT CARDS TO LOCAL RETAILERS

Coffee Shops
Fast Food
Gas Stations
Online Retailers

A DAY IN THE LIFE: PRESCHOOL

The 2026-2027 Mount Olivet preschool year is underway, and we want to share a glimpse of a typical day in the preschool! While no two days look exactly the same, every day is filled with opportunities for learning, friendship, creativity, and growth.

From the moment preschoolers walk through the doors, they are surrounded by colorful student artwork on display. Warm morning greetings from staff set a cheerful tone for the day ahead! Our low student-to-teacher ratio allows for meaningful connections between the students and staff.

Each morning begins with a meeting where children gather with their teachers and classmates. Together they learn about the day's schedule, explore the weekly theme, answer a "Question of the Day," and take on important classroom responsibilities. These routines help build confidence, independence, and a sense of belonging.

Throughout the morning, children participate in hands-on learning designed to spark curiosity and creativity. Whether they are creating artwork, engaging in imaginative play, exploring sensory activities, or working in small groups with their teacher, preschoolers learn best by doing.

Twice per week, our preschoolers meet for music class where they learn songs, poems, and work with small instruments. A few times per year, the preschool showcases their musical achievements in concerts for their parents and loved ones.

Outdoor play and movement are a priority for preschool. Children enjoy time in our courtyard digging in the sandbox, riding bikes and scooters, playing with friends, and enjoying fresh air! If the weather keeps us indoors, our gym and large muscle room provide plenty of space to run, climb, and move.

Meals are prepared in the Mount Olivet kitchen, with breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack provided for the classes.

Rest time after lunch proves to be an essential reset for the afternoon.

As the day continues, there is time for free play, outdoor play, and the opportunity to wrap up activities or complete projects from earlier in the day. Beyond activities, the important learning of being in community and caring for one another is happening throughout.

Social-emotional growth is at the heart of the preschool curriculum. Guided by caring and experienced educators, preschoolers practice identifying feelings, sharing with others, and problem solving. These skills build confidence, emotional resilience, positive peer relationships, and kindergarten readiness skills.

We are grateful to partner with families during these early years and for the opportunity to watch our preschoolers learn, grow, and thrive each day.

SUPPORTIVE PARENTING IN CHALLENGING TIMES

**Wednesday, November 11,
6:30-8pm, Mpls Campus**

Parents are invited to join us for an evening with parenting expert, Sarah Hardy. We'll meet in the Mpls Campus lounge for complimentary food and beverage at 6pm, the presentation will begin at 6:30pm.

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

Babies are born needing consistent and responsive care. As they grow, structure and warmth from adults continue to be essential to child and family well-being. Once they become adolescents, kids also especially need their adults to be credible humans who own their weaknesses & mistakes, and can laugh at themselves. In this session, we will talk about these key adult practices essential to sustaining powerfully protective relationships with kids.

No registration required, please join us!



CHANCEL CHOIR GUSTAVUS RETREAT MEMORIES

EMILY OHNSORG, *Mount Olivet member and Junior at Gustavus Adolphus College*

NAMES LISTED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Picture of some Mount Olivet Gusties!
Grant Haggerty, Owen Robinson,
Sophia Ohnsorg, Emma Liepitz,
Julia Webb, Emily Ohnsorg, Annie
Klemmensen, Jenny Jones, Meredith
Kusilek.

The Gustavus Retreat was definitely a highlight for me as a middle schooler. It was such a fun way to be able to hang out with my friends, but also meet new people from church and create new friendships from this experience, and all the fun activities we did to get to know each other! A huge part of that weekend for me was being able to sing in Christ Chapel. It felt so surreal walking into the chapel for the first time and singing in such a beautiful place.

Now, I am actually a Junior here at Gustavus majoring in Elementary Education! I am also a proud member of the Gustavus Choir, and I have loved being able to continue my love for music while being part of such a welcoming community. In many ways, it feels like I am continuing the same experience I had when I first visited Gustavus as a middle schooler—connecting with others, making memories, and sharing my love of music.

CHANCEL CHOIR GUSTAVUS RETREAT

November 13-14

If you participate in Chancel Choir at Mount Olivet, join the Music and the Youth Staff for a fun overnight at Gustavus Adolphus College. We will eat in the famous Caf, play games, have a dive dance, and of course sing in Christ Chapel. Transportation is provided from both campuses. Participants will also receive a SURPRISE Chancel Choir apparel item! Register now at mtolivet.org.

LIVING THE MESSAGE: WHAT DID JESUS DO?

NOVEMBER LIVING THE MESSAGE

Jesus Reveals Who We Are: On Swords and Divided Families

Matthew 10:34-36

Tuesday, November 10, 6:30-7:30pm, West Campus Rehearsal Hall

I have many times jokingly (or maybe not?) proposed a series for either our Wednesday/Thursday morning classes or the Living the Message program titled something like, “Your Pastors’ Least Favorite Bible Passages.” This one might make my list. The idea that Jesus brings not peace, but a sword, is so easily and so often misunderstood and misapplied. We see this especially in Christian spaces that want to curate a “warrior Jesus” image. What are we as Lutherans supposed to do with this passage? What does it tell us about the reality of life in this world as Christian disciples?

A sword is a challenge, symbolically speaking. It is the opposite of an olive branch or a white flag. As we think about Matthew 10 together, we’ll consider what and whom Jesus challenges, and why his message is so challenging. Hint: as is almost always the case with Jesus, the answer might surprise you. A surface reading of Matthew 10 certainly forces us to question some of our dominant conceptions of Jesus as a peacemaker, a cheek-turner, or a meek lamb. But as we re-read it together, we’ll find he’s even harder to pigeonhole than we might expect. — PASTOR DIXON

DECEMBER LIVING THE MESSAGE

Jesus Frustrates People: More Than Meets Our Eyes

John 3, John 6, John 18

Tuesday, December 1, 6:30-7:30pm, Mpls Campus Room 207

We like a Jesus who comforts, heals, and welcomes. And he does all of those things. But the Gospels also give us a Jesus who unsettles, confounds, and frustrates — and not by accident.

In December’s Living the Message, we’ll sit with three encounters where Jesus refuses to be who people expect him to be. Nicodemus, a religious insider, comes with careful questions and leaves holding pieces he can’t quite assemble. A crowd of devoted followers hear Jesus and many of them simply walk away. And Pilate, the most powerful man in the room, finds himself unable to get a straight answer from a man in chains.

What does it mean that Jesus so often leaves people more unsettled than satisfied? And what might that mean for us?

— PASTOR CIESLIK

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

New members are always

welcome. The only requirement

is that one loves to read!

UPCOMING BOOKS:

NOVEMBER 10/11: *The*

Book Club for Troublesome

Women by Marie Boatwick

DECEMBER 8/9: *Theo of*

Golden by Allen Levi

JANUARY 12/13: *Mad*

Honey by Jodi Picoult

FEBRUARY 9/10: *My*

Antonia by Willa Cather

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



Cedar Commons Update: The First Gift to Our Next Fifty Years

As Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center approaches its 50th anniversary in 2027, we have been prayerfully discerning: Who is God inviting to this place? How is God meeting them in rest, beauty, and belonging? How do we steward our land and buildings so this ministry flourishes and grows?

Part of the answer is Cedar Commons. And you answered with us.

You nearly tripled our fundraising goal.

What that number reveals matters more than the number itself. Gift by gift, you told us that this geography of grace matters, and that its future is worth building. That belief carries momentum.

The project has grown. Working with contractors this summer, we found a dying ash tree, buckling retaining walls, crumbling cement, worn wooden stairs, and two old drains beside the Cedar Meeting Room. All of it is coming out. In its place: attractive stonework, an accessible patio, stone stairs to match its pavers, terraced native plantings, comfortable seating, and a propane fireplace for year-round warmth. We are strengthening a foundation meant to last.

Cedar Commons will extend our indoor meeting spaces into the open air. Picture a small group holding its breakout session by the fire. Parents relaxing nearby while children play gaga ball, gather in the treehouse, or rest in hammocks.

As guests settle into the space in 2027, they will gaze out upon new wildflowers in bloom as part of an ongoing restoration of our Monarch Waystation. Guests of all ages will be invited to slow down, breathe deeply, and hear God's still voice.

50TH ANNIVERSARY SNEAK PEEK

In 2027, MOCRC turns 50, and we are planning a year of celebration: a fun-filled outdoor carnival with food and activities for all ages; more enhancements to our buildings and grounds; eight summer Midweek Worship Services, a Father's Day BBQ, outdoor concerts, stargazing, and a celebration dinner to top it all off.

These dreams are a faithful response to everything God has been growing here for fifty years. Come sit by the fire. Walk the trails. Pray in the chapel. There is room for you.

MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT THE CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER

- Volunteer your time • Attend a program or event • Spend the day in nature • Schedule a board retreat or staff meeting •
- Reserve space for a life event or family reunion • Reflect with a spiritual direction session •

Learn more at mtolivetretreat.org.



GENEROSITY IN ACTION: CELEBRATING OUR 2026 IMPACT

Your generosity strengthens Mount Olivet's affiliated ministries, supports planned giving through Mount Olivet Vision Partners, and makes special appeals possible. At the heart of this work is a commitment to building lasting relationships and connecting people with the causes they care most about.

Mount Olivet's affiliated ministries include the Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center, Cathedral of the Pines Camp, Mount Olivet Home and Careview Home, Mount Olivet Day Services, and Rolling Acres.

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, here are a few ways these ministries continued their important work throughout the community in 2026.

Together, we raised more than \$200,000 at the annual Mount Olivet Gala. The funds supported nature education scholarships at the Conference & Retreat Center, new paraments for the Lund Chapel at Careview, new Adirondack chairs for Cathedral of the Pines Camp, and financial support for the third Rolling Acres Youth Crisis Home.

Mount Olivet established the Vision Partners program in 1991 to help steward financial resources for the church's future. This year, gifts from 12 estates resulted in 31 legacy gifts. These gifts honor the donors' values and help Mount Olivet's ministries flourish for generations to come. If you have included Mount Olivet in your will or estate plan, we invite you to become a Vision Partner and connect with us.

The Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center has had an exciting year. A newly paved driveway and resurfaced parking lot now creates a warmer, more welcoming arrival experience. We also met our campaign goal for Cedar Commons, a new outdoor gathering space. Construction will begin next spring, transforming an underused area into additional meeting and fellowship space.

From completed improvements and newly funded gathering spaces to estate gifts and gala support, each milestone shows what is possible when generosity and ministry come together and gives us much to build on in the year ahead. Thank you to all of you for making these exciting things happen.

If you are interested in learning more about what the Development team is up to, or discuss your estate plan or current giving, please reach out to Peter Youngdahl, Director of Development, at pyoungdahl@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2213.



Love IN ACTION

What a fun Stewardship season we have had! We gathered for meatballs in our Fellowship Halls, watched stories of *Love in Action* at Mount Olivet, and reflected through Stewardship Moments in worship. Along the way, we celebrated our past year and made commitments to our shared mission for the year ahead.

Over and over again, I was reminded that Love in Action is more than a theme. It is the way God's love is made visible every day through this congregation. We see love in action in children learning about Jesus, students growing in faith, volunteers serving neighbors, caregivers walking alongside those who grieve, members reaching out with compassion to those in need—and so much more! Through worship, outreach, fellowship, and service, God's love is shared in countless ways across our church, community, and beyond thanks to YOUR generosity. Thank you!

KATIE STEVENSON, *Director of Stewardship*

Thank you to all who have made your giving plan and/or pledge for Mount Olivet and its ministries for 2027! ALL members and gifts of ALL sizes are important and needed! Thank you!

PLEDGE/GIVE TODAY!

If you haven't yet done so, please take time today to make your 2027 pledge to Mount Olivet and its ministries and/or make a giving plan, e.g. set up scheduled giving. If you have questions about your giving, please 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!

PLEDGE HERE



GIVE HERE



UPCOMING AT MOUNT OLIVET

NOVEMBER 2026

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

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Thursdays, November 5 and November 19, 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. 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.

ART CLASS: GOUACHE KOI POND

Monday, November 16, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus, \$45

Gouache is a watercolor medium that dries with a matte finish and can be transparent or opaque, unlike traditional watercolors. In this class, you will learn about mixing, layering and creating texture as you create a painting of a koi fish pond with step-by-step instructions.

COOK FOR KIDS AT MINNEAPOLIS CRISIS NURSERY

Tuesday, November 17, 11am-1pm, Minneapolis Crisis Nursery - 4544 4th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55419

Mount Olivet is partnering with the Minneapolis Crisis Nursery to provide meals for the little ones facing food insecurity through the Nursery's Cook for Kids volunteer opportunity. Individuals and groups of up to six volunteers cook on site and serve a meal and a snack. Minneapolis Crisis Nursery provides the recipe, food, and snacks. All you need to do is arrive at the scheduled time, cook, and chat with the kids while they're eating! Contact Laurie Hancer lhancer@mtolivet.org if you'd like to volunteer.

YOUNG IN HEART & FRIENDS: NAME THAT HYMN!

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

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of fellowship, music, and friendly competition! Can you identify your favorite hymns from just a few notes? Test your knowledge as we play "Name That Hymn," and discover the inspiring stories and history behind some of the church's most beloved songs.

CAREER & CALLING VIRTUAL MEETING

Tuesday, November 17, 5:30-7pm

Join us for an online conversation as we network, learn, and grow together! Mount Olivet's Career & Calling ministry offers our members and friends an arena for nurturing our careers and supporting each other. We aim to grow professionally and support each other as we balance work and life. Contact Julie Reece to be added to the Career & Calling group emails about upcoming events.

SCREENAGERS: GENERATION AI MOVIE SCREENING & DISCUSSION

Thursday, November 19, 7-8:30pm, Mpls Campus, FREE

Monday, November 30, 7-8:30pm, West Campus, FREE

Join us for a free screening of the new Screenagers: Generation AI, a timely look at how artificial intelligence is rapidly impacting the lives of young people and what can be done to mitigate risks and promote healthy development. The film explores AI's growing influence on kids' and teens' social lives, academics, and mental health. We will watch the movie, and then offer post-movie discussion.

FAMILY FIKA CONCERT - THE NUTCRACKER: A MUSICAL STORYBOOK

Saturday, November 21, 10-11am, Mpls Campus, FREE

Perfect for families and young listeners, this delightful performance combines the unforgettable music of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite* with engaging live narration, making Clara's magical holiday story come alive for audiences of every age.



ADVENT AT MOUNT OLIVET

POINSETTIA CHANCEL GARDEN

Order through December 6, \$35 per plant donation

During this special time of year, please consider honoring or remembering a loved one by purchasing a poinsettia to beautify our sanctuaries during the holiday season. A list of the donors and those remembered or honored will be included in the bulletin on Christmas Communion Sunday, December 20. Order at mtolivet.org/poinsettia or by contacting Jody Barbee at 952.767.1501 or jbarbee@mtolivet.org.

DAY ADVENT JOURNEY

Tuesday, December 1, 10am-3pm, Conference & Retreat Center, \$20

Join us for the Day Advent Journey led by Pastor Cieslik, Pastor Grangaard, Rev. Dr. Theresa Latini, and Conference & Retreat Center staff. This year's theme draws on the ancient prayers embedded in our beloved Advent hymns — seven names for the God we're waiting on, from Wisdom and Root of Jesse to Dayspring and King of the Nations, culminating in Emmanuel, God with us. Throughout the day we'll explore these titles through scripture, song, and prayer, asking where each one meets our own waiting this season.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Tuesday, December 1, 6:30pm, West Campus

Tuesday, December 8, 6:30pm, Mpls Campus

This service features a time of healing and reflection with peaceful harp music, a vocal soloist, and a time to light a candle in memory of your loved one. If you would like the first and last name of your loved one read during the service, please visit mtolivet.org to fill out the form or contact the Congregational Care Team at 612.767.2208 or ccmessages@mtolivet.org.

WINTER COMMUNION SERVICE & LUNCHEON

Saturday, December 5, 11am-1pm, Mpls Campus

Please join us for a worship service with Christmas readings, carols, and Holy Communion, followed by a festive lunch. This service is designed for members and family who are often unable to come to church. Rides will be provided for those in need of transportation. For more information and to register, please contact Congregational Care at 612.767.2208 or email at ccmessages@mtolivet.org.

MESSIAH SING-ALONG FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

Sunday, December 6, Rehearsal 3:15pm, Performance 4pm, Mpls Campus

It's time for one of our favorite December traditions, Mount Olivet's annual *Messiah* Sing-Along! Pull out your festive Christmas sweater, grab your score (or use one of ours), and sing some of the season's most beloved music alongside our outstanding featured soloists. Whether you've sung *Messiah* a hundred times or this is your first time, come join the fun! All singers, and string players are welcome!

Questions? Contact Beverly Clafin at beverlyc@mtolivet.org.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Sunday, December 6, Gathering 3:30-5pm, 5pm Tree Lighting, Mpls Campus

Join us as we light the Mount Olivet Christmas tree on 50th and James Ave in Mpls! We will gather around the tree, share a song, and light up our small corner of south Minneapolis with grateful anticipation of the Savior and light of the world. There will be music, treats, crafts, and even Santa and reindeer will be available for pictures!

HOLIDAY BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, December 14, 12noon-5pm, Mpls Campus

Make a lifesaving difference this holiday season by donating at this year's blood drive. Giving blood is safe, simple, and takes about one hour from start to finish. Please eat a healthy meal, drink plenty of water, and bring a photo ID. Appointments are encouraged at mtolivet.org, but walk-ins will be accepted as space permits.



**MOUNT OLIVET
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

6pm

MPLS Pastor Dixon

WEST Pastor Cieslik