

**MOUNT
OLIVET** | LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF
PLYMOUTH

finding our place in God's unfolding story...

THIS WEEK

A weekly publication of Mount Olivet Lutheran Church
Week of January 8-14, 2012

Welcome! If you are a guest this morning, please stop by the Welcome Counter to receive a gift.

For more information about Mount Olivet, please call 763-559-2775 or visit our website: <http://moply.org>.

THE LITTLE BLESSINGS NURSERY

is open on the garden level and available during the 9:45 a.m. worship service.

Also, the Family Worship area at the back of the Worship Center is available for parents with young children.

Assisted listening devices

are available at the Usher Stand just outside the Worship Center doors.

Age-appropriate worship bulletins

are available for children ages three to 12.

Find them on the "Busy Bag Tree" in the Welcome Center, to the left of the main entrance to the Worship Center.

Coffee and doughnuts are being served in the Fireside Room today between services.

All are welcome.

FOR PASTORAL CARE

When the office is closed and assistance is needed due to a crisis or emergency, please call

Pastor John, Pastor Beth, or
Kirsten Kessel, DM at home:

John Strommen, Senior Pastor	763-540-9427
Beth Horsch, Pastor of Faith Formation	763-208-0380
Kirsten Kessel, Diaconal Minister	763-476-6466

COUNSELING SERVICES

Counseling services are available through Peg Roberts, LMFT at Ridgedale Center for Counseling. Call 952-546-5565 to schedule an appointment.

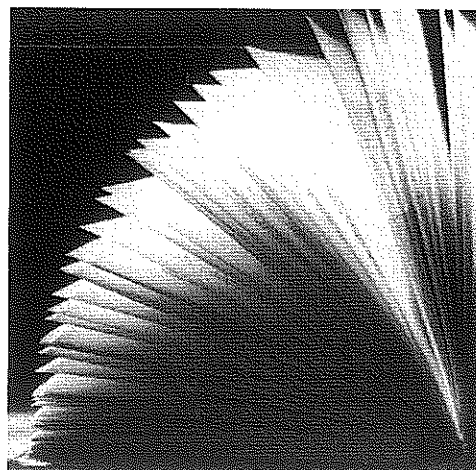
12235 Old Rockford Road
Plymouth, MN 55441

763-559-2775 <http://moply.org>

Our journey through the Gospels has begun!

Each week the Bible story that is read in worship will be linked to a new *Living Luke* blog on our website, which will contain a short reflection and a question to consider from that week's preaching pastor. Everyone is encouraged to comment on the blog with a question or an insight on where we see the story intersecting with our lives today.

ALSO, there is a *Living Luke* white board in the Welcome Center. The question of the week will be posted and all are encouraged to write their thoughts and impressions there as well.



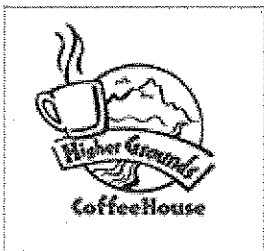
Living
uke

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Living Luke Sunday Education Sessions at 9:45 a.m. in the Conference Room

Pastor Paul Almquist (Mount Olivet's favorite guest pastor) will be with us for three weeks to discuss the Luke text for each week.

Mount Olivet Brew Crew will meet today at 1:00 p.m. at Eric & Lisa Hansen's home. We'll bottle our red wine, brew some hard cider and make some cheese! All are welcome! Call 763-509-9708 for directions.



**Higher Grounds Coffee House Concert
January 20, 2012 Bruce Henry**

Bruce Henry is a vocalist, performer and educator extraordinaire. He possesses a three-octave range, and a pure voice with versatility few can match. Bruce's eclectic vocal style has been influenced by legends such as

John Coltrane, Al Jarreau, Nina Simone and Marvin Gaye. Tickets are \$10 and available at the Welcome Counter or on our website.

J-term for Club 56 and Confirmation

We are taking a break from our regular schedules for Club 56 and Confirmation to focus on the umbrella topic of *Life Interrupted*. Students in grades 5-9 will meet on Wednesdays at the normal times, but in the Worship Center as we hear from speakers on four specific topics. Here is the schedule:

January 11: Fitting In: Why is it so Stinkin' Hard?!

with Tom Richards from TreeHouse

January 18: Life out of Death: What does this even mean?

Dr. Terri Elton from Luther Seminary

January 25: When Love seems to Fail: Families and Divorce

Michelle Hunt-Graham from Inside Out Life Development

While these topics are specifically geared towards students in grades 5-9, families, high school students, and other members of the congregation are welcome to join us for these four weeks!

Third Annual Partnership Bowling Event

Sunday, January 22 5 - 7:00 p.m.

Join families and friends from Mount Olivet and our partner churches, Trinity and Nokomis Heights for an evening of fellowship and fun (including silly prizes for all ages) at Memory Lanes in Minneapolis. Bowl two games and rent shoes for \$7.50. Please sign up at the Welcome Counter so we know how many lanes to reserve. Last year Mount Olivet won the Golden Bowling Pin for having the best attendance - it's up to YOU to keep it here! Come and join the fun!

YOU CAN HELP

**Feed My Starving Children
Congregation-wide Event**

Wednesday, March 7 6 - 8:00 p.m.

Mount Olivet has been approved to be the site of a MobilePack! We will be assembling 25,000 meals to send around the world to feed hungry children. Mount Olivet is responsible not only for packing the meals but also for the cost of these 25,000 meals (24 cents per meal = we need to raise \$6000). Please go to <http://www.fmssc.org> to make a donation: click on the MobilePack tab, and then scroll down to Minnesota-Plymouth and click on the donate button. To help pack on March 7, sign up at the Welcome Counter.



MCC Refugee Services

This January we have an exciting opportunity to welcome a new refugee family to Minnesota! A Karen family of seven will be arriving in late January and living in St. Paul. Their children range in ages from six to 18, and include one girl and four boys. As a member of a Taking Root team, you can provide a warm welcome by helping furnish their apartment, enroll the children in school, assist with transportation to appointments, and introduce the family to American culture. There will be a planning meeting **January 9** from 6-7:30 p.m. at MCC. Contact Jennifer Pins at 612-230-3221 or Jennifer.pins@mnchurches.org to learn more about this unique opportunity.

WANTED: BE Musicians

If you can sing, play the guitar (or both!) and would be willing to help lead Bible explorers music on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, please contact Sarah Hoerr at shoerr01@gmail.com.

Are You a Thrivent Member?

Did you know that you can direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Mount Olivet? To do so login to your Thrivent account, click on Direct Choice Dollars button and select Mt Olivet Lutheran Church. Thrivent Choice Dollars received by Mount Olivet are used for special projects. In 2011, the Choice Dollars we received funded the purchase of the bike rack outside of Door C.

Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly – February 17 & 18, 2012

Represent Mount Olivet at the 2012 Assembly and you will have an opportunity to worship and learn, participate in the business decisions, and be part of electing a new bishop for the synod. If interested, please contact Deb Borg, dborg@moply.org or 763-509-9403.

GROWTH AND FELLOWSHIP

Continuing Conversations

Something new! It's not a Bible study - it's not a lecture - it's not a group with a well-defined agenda. It is a place of growth that encourages organic discussion based on the insights from the Bible stories and sermons we will hear every week in worship and our own journeys of faith. The small group will convene every other Thursday night beginning January 19. This group is designed especially for adults in the 20s, 30s and 40s who are interested in talking more about how faith intersects in daily life. E-mail Michelle Davis at memdavis@gmail.com if you are interested in joining.

Artists, Bakers, and Campers...Oh My!

Dust off those French Horns! Pull out that quilt you made last winter! Pre-heat the ovens and start up the stoves! Bring your most special talent, your favorite dessert, or both! On February 12 from 4-6 p.m. we're having a variety show to raise funds for Bible Camp scholarships. If you're known for a spectacular pie, a pan of fantastic bars, or just want to sing a ditty, tell a joke, or showcase some hidden talent, let Emily or Kendall know! (Emily: edalen@moply.org or 763-509-9411 - Kendall: 763-509-9415 or kjeske@moply.org) All talents, desserts, and people of ALL ages, are welcome! Plan to do something as a family. Bake a pie with your grandpa and bring it to share. Ask your next door neighbor to sing a song. **EVERYONE** is invited.

Christian Yoga

Begin the new year with a yoga class offered here at Mount Olivet. Beginners are welcome—no experience is necessary. This gentle class includes prayer, scripture, breath, hatha yoga postures and meditation. We'll move and breathe together with Christian music saturating our minds and hearts—keeping our focus on Christ. An new eight-week session begins Thursday, January 12 at 7:00 p.m. Cost = \$50. for more information, contact Julie Thour at rjthour@gmail.com or 763-557-0269.

January is a wonderful time to curl up with a good book and our Mount Olivet library has over 30 new books, over 20 Veggie Tale DVDs, several adult and juvenile classics as well as over 2000 other items. Come check them out!

Women's Day 2012 **Saturday, March 3**
 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
 Save the date!
 Watch for more information coming soon!

taking questions

wednesdays @ mount olivet

How does Jesus call us to relate to non-Christians?

WHY INTERFAITH DIALOGUE MATTERS

Each month, we will consider a different faith tradition with a guest presenter who practices that faith. Our time will be spent learning more about that particular belief system, dialoging with our guest, then making a site visit to a place of worship.

Interspersed with our conversations with other faith traditions will be a monthly study of Brian McLaren's book, *A New Kind of Christianity*. This book will help us in our understanding of our own faith tradition as we consider others. This reflection time will be led by Pastor John on the first Wednesday of each month.

JANUARY HINDUISM
11 & 18 Dr. Ashok Kapoor, Associate Professor of Finance at Augsburg College
25 Site visit to a temple & dinner.

FEBRUARY JUDAISM II
1 *A New Kind of Christianity*, Part V: The Gospel Question: *What is the Gospel?*, pages 137-157
8 & 15 Rabbi Barry Cytron will return
22 ASH WEDNESDAY: NO CLASS
25 Site visit to a synagogue 10:00 a.m.
29 *A New Kind of Christianity*, Part VI: The Church Question: *What do we do About the Church?*, pages 161-172.

MARCH MORMONISM
7 *A New Kind of Christianity*, Part VII: The Sex Question: *Can we find a way to address human sexuality without fighting about it?*, pages 173-190
14 & 21 Speaker TBD
28 Site Visit

APRIL BUDDHISM
4 HOLY WEEK: NO CLASS
11 & 18 Dr. Roger Jackson, a member of the Carleton College Department of Religion, teaches the religions of South Asia and Tibet. He is also a practitioner of Tibetan Buddhism.
25 Site visit to Gyuto Wheel of Dharma Monastery in NE Minneapolis.

MAY This month will be devoted to completing *A New Kind of Christianity*

These sessions are open to all and a free-will donation will be taken to cover the costs. Sessions meet every Wednesday from 6:50-8:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Contact Joy Miller at jmillier@moply.org or 763-509-9407 for more information.

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT OLIVET

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

Use the white pew card or call the church office (763-559-2775) to let us know of concerns you would like on the Prayer List. Confidential concerns will never appear on this list.

PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Joe Van Sloun and Benita Bjorgo, who were expecting triplets, but the babies died prematurely last week. Give thanks for Faith, Grace and Aaron who were claimed, named and loved by God and their family in their short time on earth. Pray for peace and comfort for Joe, Benita and their son Ryan, as well as Karen Bjorgo and Bob Gausman.
- Jack Jablonski, student at Benilde-St. Margaret's who suffered a severe spinal cord injury playing hockey last week. Pray for him and his friends and family as they adjust to their "new normal".
- Tony & Marie Wagner's niece, Angie, hospitalized after being in a very serious car accident. She faces a long rehabilitation. Pray for her recovery and for her husband, young daughters and her parents as they go through this with her.
- A longtime Mount Olivet member who has been struggling with depression, anxiety and insomnia for many months. This person's faith is being tested each day and we pray that faith and hope can be seen and accepted.
- Judy Johnson, friend of Mount Olivet, who died on January 2 after a long battle with cancer. Pray for her husband Todd and daughters Jaime and Rachel as they grieve her loss and also celebrate the wonderful women she was.
- Tiger Luchsinger, undergoing chemo treatments.
- Shari Kreye's brother, Steve, who visited Mayo Clinic this week. Pray for knowledge, patience and strength.
- Jason & Cara Lundrigan's friend Jon Bucksa, undergoing chemotherapy. Pray that the treatments will be effective. Pray also for his wife Amy and their two small children.
- Stephanie Madson, as she continues her treatment for Hodgkins lymphoma.

PRAY FOR MOUNT OLIVET MEMBERS IN CARE CENTERS:

Don Elstad Janet Ontko

PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY:

- Joseph Rodriguez, Mitch & Rose Wadman's nephew, on his second tour in Afghanistan.
- Logan Tyler, John & Nancy Darnall's nephew, serving in Germany.
- Neil G. Broman, USMC, stationed in CA.
- Jason Schmid, in Special Forces training.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, January 8

8:30, 9:45 & 11:00 a.m. Worship (WC)

Nursery care is available for children ages birth to two years during the 9:45 a.m. worship service.

9:45 a.m. Bible Explorers

9:45 a.m. Adult Education

1:00 p.m. Brew Crew (off-site)

6:00 p.m. NO *The Deck*

MONDAY, January 9

6:45 a.m. Men's Bible Study (265)

5:00 p.m. CLC Staff (Fireside)

TUESDAY, January 10

6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts (CM150)

WEDNESDAY, January 11

5:00 p.m. Fellowship Meal: Jet's Pizza (FH)

6:00 p.m. Worship (WC)

6:15 p.m. Children's Choir (272)

6:50 p.m. BE, Club 56 & Confirmation J-term

6:50 p.m. Taking Questions (265)

THURSDAY, January 12

6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. 4H (CM150)

6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study (283)

7:00 p.m. Yoga (CM140)

7:30 p.m. Gathering Rehearsal

FRIDAY, January 13

10:00 a.m. Scrapbookers (265)

SATURDAY, January 14

7:45 a.m. Men's Bible Study (283)

8:00 a.m. Scrapbookers (265)

8:30 a.m. Girl Scouts (FH)

2:00 p.m. Ahn Piano Recital (WC)

SUNDAY, January 15

8:30, 9:45 & 11:00 a.m. Worship (WC)

Nursery care is available for children ages birth to two years during the 9:45 a.m. worship service.

9:45 a.m. Bible Explorers

9:45 a.m. Adult Education

6:00 p.m. NO *The Deck*

MONDAY, January 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Church Office Closed: Staff Holiday