

OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 24-30, 2020

CONGRATULATIONS GRANT!

Last Sunday, May 17, our very own Grant Vanderford graduated from Wartburg Theological Seminary with his Master of Divinity degree. Grant continues to work through the call process through the ELCA NW MN Synod to find his first call as pastor. During the summer months, he will continue lay ministry services at Olivet.

WEDNESDAY EVENING WORSHIP

As summer begins and we continue to worship virtually due to COVID-19, our Wednesday evening worship services will transition to a new form: Night Prayer, also known as Compline. Each Wednesday, a recording of this worship service that will include a short reflection by one of Olivet's pastors will be posted on the Olivet website and on Facebook at 5:45 p.m. It will remain accessible so you can watch it at any time. The order for worship will also be posted so that you can sing along, joining your voice to the song! Night Prayer offers a time to acknowledge both the gifts and the failings of each day, and we commend ourselves and the whole world into God's hands as night comes. We pray that this practice of Night Prayer on Wednesdays will enrich your faith journey each week, allowing you to enter a holy time of reflection and prayer at the end of the day.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Olivet Foundation provides college scholarships of \$250 for Olivet students who are continuing their education at an ELCA college as a full-time student. The application is open until July 31. For additional details or to receive a scholarship application, call the church office at 701.235.6603 or email slundblad@olivet.org.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

On March 2, the Olivet Food Pantry served 57 families with over 2,300 pounds of food. It was a particularly busy evening and we could not even imagine what would come in just a couple of weeks. On April 6, we fed only 19 families, with curbside pick-up of pre-packed bags. It was determined at that point that we needed to redirect our work and find other ways to feed people in our community. Since April, we have donated food to Churches United for the Homeless, A Place for Hope, and Charism. Each organization has been thrilled to receive the items, and we are glad that the food will not go to waste.

Thank you to the volunteers who have helped us get food into the kitchens of those who need it most. Until we know the full impact of the pandemic, we plan to keep the pantry closed. When it is safe, we will restock and restart.

In the meantime, we ask that anyone who is able to donate to the Great Plains Food Bank, our food pantry partner, to please visit their website at www.greatplainsfoodbank.org and look for the yellow DONATE tab in the upper right corner. They anticipate needing \$4.5 million to respond to the crisis. We are so grateful to our congregation for your generosity over the years and look forward to the day when we can be back in our church, serving people in our pantry.



WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Mornings: 10 a.m.
Live stream on the Olivet website
& on WDAY 970 AM

Wednesday Night Prayer: 5:45 p.m.
Found on the Olivet website

WORSHIP LEADERS

Senior Pastor	Kris Gorden
Pastor	Bill Boelter
Pastor	Tiffany Sundeen
Lay Minister	Grant Vanderford
Deacon	Brenda Bauer
Music	Marlys Herring

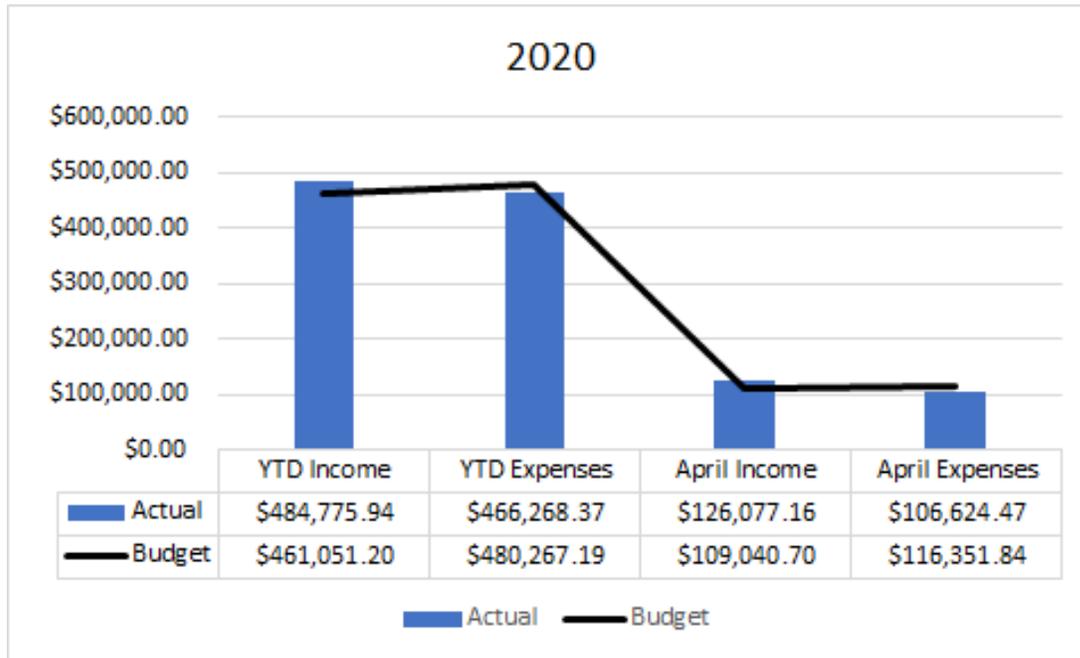
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FINANCIAL UPDATE

The 2020 Lenten season looked very different than anyone could have imagined. We know we are not alone in the uncertainty of what the COVID-19 closures will mean for our financials. April was the first full month that we were unable to gather for worship, and we are grateful that our congregation was able to continue to support the church. On a positive note, we secured a Paycheck Protection Loan through the SBA and a few members chose to tithe on their stimulus checks. However, we know many in our community have experienced loss of income and have had to make some difficult decisions on where they need to make cuts in their own personal budgets. We continue to pray for those who are experiencing financial hardship.

For both the month of April and year-to-date, our expenses are under budget and our income is over budget. Thank you for your continued generosity, as we rely on your donations to be able to share the good news in new and innovative ways.



CONTINUING TO CONNECT

As outlined in the letter you should have received in the mail, all Olivet sanctioned events, including worship and small group Bible studies continue to be postponed. In the coming weeks, we will release our plan on returning to in-person worship, providing additional detail how and when we plan to return to in-person activities. Until then, we invite and encourage you to stay connected as an Olivet family by visiting olivet.org/get-involved/ways-to-connect and through our Facebook page and group.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020

It is with great sadness that we have to announce that vacation bible school will not be taking place in-person at Olivet this summer. The week of VBS is one that our staff and youth look forward to every year. We have come to consider VBS week as the kickoff to summer here at Olivet and the energy throughout the church that week invigorates us! But don't worry, Michelle wouldn't let the summer pass without offering fun activities and lessons about the love of Jesus. Parents, watch your email for information on how you can offer your own little VBS at home. We have it all laid out for you and this way you can complete the arts and crafts, lessons, and music when it works for you and your child.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know streaming our worship services has been a longtime goal of Olivet's? Until recently, we spent lots of time discussing streaming our services but had not taken the leap that was necessary to offer the service. With the COVID-19 outbreak, Olivet, along with many other churches, was thrust into the world of streaming. We are blessed to have truly talented people within our staff and congregation that were willing to assist with the process to ensure a smooth transition from in-person worship to online worship. While we occasionally experience glitches along the way, we are grateful that we are able to offer this method of worship.

For those of you who are curious about what we know about our streaming analytics, here are a few fun facts.

- Between 3.18.20 & 5.18.20 our channel had 10,253 views.
- Of those views, 9,248 (90.2%) were live and 1,005 (9.8%) were of the uploaded service.
- Palm Sunday (April 5) was our highest attended service, with 1,391 live views and 50 views of the uploaded service.
- Easter Sunday (April 12) was our second highest attended service, with 1,060 live views and 44 views of the uploaded service.

We hope you are enjoying this new way of connecting, and while we cannot wait until we can gather in-person again, we look forward to seeing you online!

SEE & BE SEEN PARADE

Thank you to everyone who came out for our "See & Be Seen" parade on Wednesday, May 20. We had so much fun seeing your faces and catching up, albeit brief. Special thank you to staff and council for lining the parade route, to Marlys for spearheading the effort, and Jeanette for capturing the fun. We didn't get an official count, but estimated about 175 people were involved in one way or another. Here are a few highlights from the night.



